

THE TIMES

No. 65,744

MONDAY NOVEMBER 25 1996

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PLUS:
The Libby Purves column

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PLUS: Interface, our weekly guide to new technology



THURSDAY

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Geoff Brown on Uma Thurman and *Beautiful Girls*

PLUS:
Dr Thomas Stuttaford's medical briefing

FRIDAY

POP
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PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview



SATURDAY

32-PAGE CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE
in the Magazine

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 96, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND THE 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Attempt to defuse Euro-row

Clarke to confront sceptics in Commons

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

KENNETH CLARKE will face his party's Eurosceptics today in a gamble designed to quell the renewed Tory turmoil over the single currency and turn attention back to his Budget tomorrow.

After another day of ministerial disarray over the Government's plans for handling its latest Euro-crisis, Mr Clarke's appearance before MPs was announced by the Treasury in a partial climbdown to defuse a row that was threatening to get out of control.

It means that 24 hours before he stands up in the Commons for his Budget speech, the Chancellor will have to face questions from hostile backbenchers about European monetary union regulations on which, they say, he and the Prime Minister have been trying to stifle debate.

In a further move to appease the sceptics, he will make plain that he will withhold Britain's agreement from any deal at the Dublin meeting of European finance ministers on December 2 and not agree until the British Parliament has finished its scrutiny of the measures.

Ministers are also likely to agree today that the Commons debate planned to precede the Dublin summit next month will be extended to two full days to enable extra scrutiny of the single currency regulations. That is another concession to the alliance of pro-Europeans and sceptics which has come together to attack the Government's refusal to allow a separate debate on monetary union. However, John Major's refusal to allow a debate this Friday in advance of the finance ministers' meeting has been maintained. Today he will meet Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 Committee of Tory MPs, to discuss the demands for extra scrutiny.

Mr Clarke's decision to go before MPs today was hailed as a victory by some leading Eurosceptics last night, with one calling it a capitulation by Mr Major and another claiming "game, set and match". It means they will get the chance, so far steadfastly denied, to question the Chancellor himself on the regulations. However, others were not placated. John Redwood will demand of Mr Clarke today an explicit declaration in all the documents being considered on December 2 that they will not affect Britain if it is outside the single currency.

Mr Major and Mr Clarke decided on the Chancellor's statement yesterday morning. Mr Clarke wants not only to focus his party on his Budget but also is angry at what he sees as misleading reports about the regulations to be discussed at the finance ministers' meeting. His irritation grew at the weekend with reports suggesting he had withheld

Cautious Budget

The City expects Kenneth Clarke to deliver a cautious Budget tomorrow, offering no more than a 1p cut in income tax and using October's bumper haul of tax receipts to announce cuts in his forecasts for public borrowing

..... Pages 2, 26

one planned on tourism. He said on BBC Radio's *The World This Weekend*: "Anything is possible, the House of Commons can adapt itself. There is, for example, a debate on Friday on tourism and it may be that some people think that can be deferred."

Within minutes of the interview, government sources were making plain that Mr Lang had been making a "freelance" suggestion and that a Friday debate was still not a serious runner as far as the Prime Minister was concerned.

Then came the Treasury statement. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, capitalised on the confusion, saying: "The Government's position seems to be changing from hour to hour. It is clear there is chaos at the heart of a Government which is a direct result of weak leadership."

William Rees-Mogg and Peter Riddell, page 24
Leading article and Letters, page 25

Cardinal condemns pop devil music

to be found in songs by such groups as the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, Queen, Led Zeppelin and the Eagles.

Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, is considered the highest moral authority in the Vatican after the Pope, at whose side he has been for almost all of the latter's 18-year reign. His stern admonishment and even excommunication of dissident theologians has earned him a fearsome reputation.

Speaking yesterday at a Mass marking the feast of St Cecilia, the



Lizzie Anders, who swam to surface after the hijacked jet crashed in the Indian Ocean

SAS suspends troops over TV documentary

By MICHAEL EVANS

FIVE members of the Territorial Army's SAS regiment have been suspended after taking part in a television documentary series about the unit. The men from 22 SAS, appeared in balaclavas in *SAS - The Soldiers' Story*, in the summer.

Former members of 22 SAS, the regular Army regiment, also helped to reconstruct some of the most dramatic SAS operations of the last 25 years. About 20 serving and former members of the TA SAS were paid £100 a day as extras in the ITV series. Six of them are understood to have resigned.

The five suspended TA members are understood to have been ordered to retake the selection course if they wish to rejoin the regiment. All have appealed and their cases are to be reviewed by the Army Board.



Toothpaste worry

The British Dental Association emphasised the dangers of swallowing fluoride toothpaste after manufacturers paid £1,000 to a boy whose teeth were damaged

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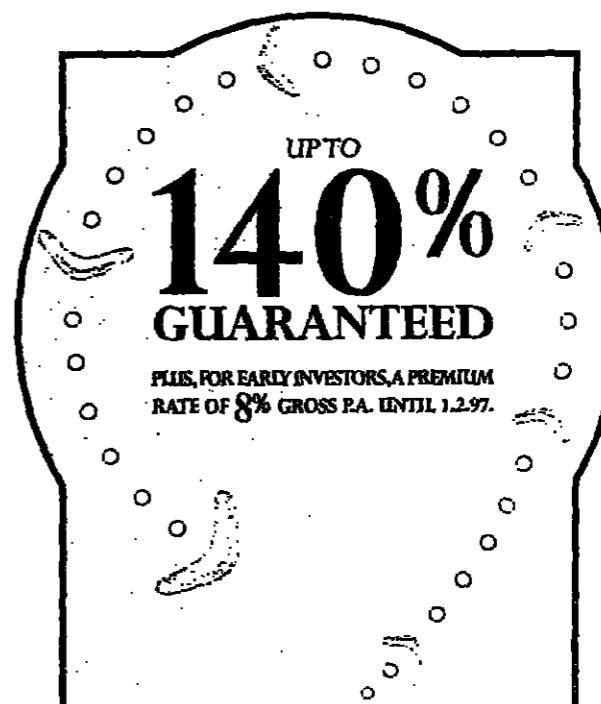
Painting doubts

Fresh evidence has been unearthed casting doubt on one of the National Gallery's most prized Rubens, *Samson and Delilah*

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Two British survivors described last night their remarkable escape from the sunken wreckage of a hijacked plane that ran out of fuel and crashed in the Indian Ocean.

Up to 120 passengers died when the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 was torn into three pieces as it tried to crashland in the sea just 500 yards off the Comoros Islands.

Lizzie Anders, 32, and Katie Hayes, 31, told how they struggled out of their seat belts as the ruptured fuselage filled with water and slid under the waves.

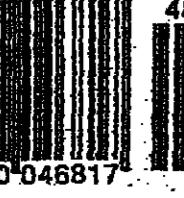
In a telephone call to her father last night Miss Anders told how the five-hour hijack ended when Flight ET 961 suddenly dipped towards the sea.

"It was the crash that saved her," Chris Anders said last night. "She and Katie were at the back of the plane and as it hit the surface the tail broke off. Both managed to unbuckle their safety belts and swim to the surface. Lizzie is obviously distraught by what happened. She has a broken leg and will stay with Katie, who has a punctured lung".

Last night both women were together in a ward in the Felix Guyon Hospital in St Denis, capital of Réunion. Mr Anders, a retired surgeon, spoke of his "overwhelming relief and gratitude" to the holidaymakers who saw the crash and used every available craft to brave high seas and rescue the 55 survivors.

Among them were two of the hijack gang, who had just been freed from a prison in Addis Ababa, where the flight began. One of the hijackers burst into the plane's cockpit

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Tunnel disruption may last six months

BY JONATHAN PRYNN



A wrecked wagon leaving the tunnel in France yesterday

EUROTUNNEL said yesterday that disruption to passenger services would continue for up to six months, as the final pieces of fire-twisted wreckage were removed from the Channel Tunnel. Structural engineers who had the first chance to examine the worst-affected 600 metre stretch are expected to recommend replacing dozens of concrete casing segments damaged by the 1,000°C heat.

Eurotunnel, which initially expected to have trains running the day after last Monday's fire, conceded yesterday that it was having difficulty persuading the Channel Tunnel safety authority to agree to even a restricted passenger service.

The stumbling block is how an evacuation could be carried out in the event of a second accident in the undamaged north tunnel.

The scale of the clean-up became clearer as specialist Eurotunnel repair teams worked to remove the most badly damaged nine lorry

shuttle wagons and a £4 million locomotive from the south tunnel. A priority will be to work on the short section of buckled track where the fire was at its most intense. Workers also began cleaning soot from miles of communication and power cables and assessing how to repair the concrete lining close to the most damaged section of the tunnel.

Some of the worst-affected 1.5 metre concrete segments will have to be replaced by spares left over when the tunnel was built in the early 1990s. A 100 metre section of the tunnel was heavily scorched in the fire, which raged for eight hours.

Eurotunnel sources said that although the damage was repairable it was too long to say how long services would be disrupted. "It could be three weeks, it could be six months," said one. An engineering expert close to the original construction of the tunnel said: "They will be doing pretty well if they have everything up and running normally in time for next year's summer season."

Members of the safety authority

have been in constant touch with the company over the weekend, although there is still no agreement on when passenger and lorry freight services can resume. Container freight services started again on Thursday and dozens of Eurostar and shuttle trains carrying Eurotunnel and safety authority staff have been through.

A spokesman for Eurotunnel said that although services would not resume until the authority was happy with safety precautions, the company had the legal right to go ahead without the authority's express permission. "Obviously, it will be best for public confidence if everybody was satisfied that everything was all right," he said.

The company was last night studying computer-simulated models of an evacuation during repairs to the south tunnel to help to decide whether to keep an emergency shuttle train on permanent standby inside the damaged tunnel.

The Eurotunnel source said that in its original projections had forecast a fire once every nine years. Following

research into fires on cross-Channel ferries and other European train tunnels, it had reduced its projection to every year. He said that engine innovations such as fuel injection made fires more likely. "Basically, we were expecting a fire from day one," he said.

Ferry operators and airlines said they had noticed a sharp but not dramatic increase in demand for services to France since the closure of the tunnel. British Airways said demand for its business class service to Paris was particularly strong while Eurostar remains out of action. A spokesman for P&O, the largest cross-Channel ferry operator, said it had increased sailings between Dover and Calais by half to 30 a day to cope with the pre-Christmas rush while the tunnel remained shut. With Stena, the second biggest ferry company, increasing its services to 27 crossings a day, there were no reports of queues at Dover yesterday. "There will be more than enough capacity to meet the demand," a P&O spokesman said.

Chancellor expected to phase out extra benefit for single parents

Tories urge Clarke to deliver Budget for family values

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



Lamont called for an iron grip on inflation

KENNETH CLARKE is expected to bow to backbench pressure and put the family at the forefront of the Budget tomorrow.

Foremost among several measures to centre attention on the importance of the family, the Chancellor is expected to announce that he will phase out extra benefits for single parents. About one million lone parents on income support receive a £5.20 weekly premium, which will be dropped for new claimants from next April.

The move comes amid heightened Tory hopes that spending cuts will pave the way for £2 billion worth of tax reductions and lead to an upturn in the party's fortunes.

However, Mr Clarke was urged yesterday by Norman Lamont, his predecessor as Chancellor, to ignore MPs and instead "do what is right for the economy". Mr Lamont said that Mr Clarke had to keep "an iron grip on inflation. Now is not the time for an excessive giveaway. That is not what the economy needs."

The cut in benefit for single parents, which would save an initial £270 million, would lead to further spending reductions over time as the number of claimants fell. The changes, which would not affect the £6.30 weekly payment to all single parents regardless of income, would

coincide with the merging of the one-parent benefit with child benefit.

They were attacked yesterday by Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, as "the wrong way to encourage lone parents into work and away from benefit."

An alliance of pro-family Tories and religious organisations has pressed Mr Clarke to increase the married couple's allowance, which they claim has fallen in value over the last six years while payments to cohabitantes have increased. They believe there are powerful political benefits in a strong pro-family stance as Tony Blair renews attempts

to establish Labour as the defender of family values.

Many Conservative MPs are pinning their hopes on a reduction of income tax by 1p, costing the Treasury £1.3 billion initially, and a possible widening of the 20p band to take more low earners out of the standard rate of tax, currently 34p. However, even a £500 widening of the band would cost an estimated £300 million. Tories are also hopeful that increased allowances would take the lowest paid workers out of tax. However, above-inflation increases cost an estimated £430 million for each £100 rise.

Although the Chancellor is thought to have pared down the £26.8 billion spending bill during negotiations with Cabinet colleagues, he has been forced to agree to increased spending on health, education and prisons. Even those pressing for a giveaway Budget acknowledge that the Chancellor has little room for manoeuvre and will be forced to recoup some of his generosity through other tax-raising measures.

Mr Clarke's pledges to increase duty on fuel by 5 per cent above inflation are expected to net £90 million. Smokers are also likely to have to pay more, while promises to abolish inheritance tax and capital gains tax have put Mr Clarke under pressure to increase the threshold on which tax is paid on legacies and to reduce tax on capital gains.

Mr Clarke has repeatedly attempted to play down expectations amid signs that economic recovery is expected to push inflation higher. Eco-



Clarke under pressure from pro-family Tories to attack Labour's claim to be the defender of the family

nomic analysts and big business have urged a cautious Budget to prevent further interest rate increases following the 0.25 per cent rise announced this month.

£3bn giveaway, page 56

Blizzards bring road chaos to the North

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

BLIZZARDS swept across much of northern Britain yesterday bringing chaos to roads but joy to winter sports enthusiasts on the first weekend of the Scottish skiing season.

Drifting snow on the Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors and the Yorkshire Wolds kept the emergency services at full stretch rescuing stranded motorists. North Yorkshire Police said: "The area is littered with abandoned vehicles. The Dales are a no-go area and everyone is working flat out to ensure no one is left stranded overnight."

In Scotland motorists were warned to avoid high-level roads after several were closed by drifts. Dumfries and Galloway Police appealed for motorists only to make essential journeys. A spokesman said: "The conditions are atrocious from Dumfries northwards with deep snow and abandoned vehicles."

About 1,000 skiers and snowboarders turned out at the Lecht Ski Centre, near Tomintoul over the weekend. While snow was plentiful in the Cairngorm area, the other three Scottish ski centres did not have enough. "We are absolutely delighted to be able to offer good standard skiing so early in the winter," a spokesman for the Lecht said.

■ Kelly Stewart, 12, of Consett, Co Durham, suffered a fractured skull and was yesterday in the high dependency unit at Newcastle General Hospital after her makeshift sledge was in collision with a taxi.

Forecast, page 28

Grammar schools claim best results

Grammar schools claimed yesterday that government test results proved that they were stretching able teenagers more effectively than comprehensives. Almost 30 per cent of 14-year-olds reaching top levels in national curriculum science tests came from selective schools, which are attended by only 4 per cent of pupils. In English, 20 per cent of top levels went to grammar pupils and 21 per cent in mathematics. The 161 grammars will use the findings to protect their future under a Labour government.

Margaret Dewar, chairman of the National Grammar Schools Association, said of the summer's tests: "There are a disproportionate number of high scores in grammar schools. For them to have 29 per cent of the best science students suggests that they are stretching the most able more effectively than other schools."

Teenage girl murdered

Beth Robinson, who was 17, was sexually assaulted and strangled on a deserted short cut near Offa's Dyke. Her body was found yesterday propped against a wall 200 yards from where she lived. Police believe she was attacked after a night out in Monmouth. Gwent and are interviewing friends who had visited pubs and clubs with her hours before she was murdered.

Move to save night sky

The Government is ready to consider legislation to reduce light pollution, which increasingly obscures the night sky. Today a seminar organised by the Department of the Environment at the Dorchester Hotel in London will hear John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, say that he is willing to consider changes in the law and in planning guidance to local authorities.

Advert goes for a burton

An advertisement for Burton's menswear that features three men urinating in a line to symbolise the demise of the traditional gentleman has been withdrawn. Burton's advertising agency, Mellors Reay, was told by the Committee of Advertising Practice, the Advertising Standards Authority's advisory wing, that the poster was likely to cause offence if displayed in public places.

West in prison move

Rosemary West, the serial killer, has been moved temporarily to Holloway Prison, north London, from top-security Durham prison. The move is believed to be a routine matter to facilitate family visits. West, 42, is serving life for the murders of ten young women and girls, including her daughter Heather, 16, and stepdaughter Charmaine, 8.



Mysteries of China

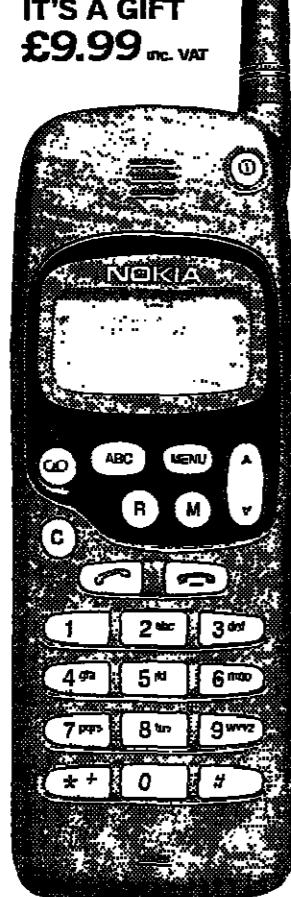
A bronze figure from Guangzhou (circa 1200BC-1000BC), pictured with the British Museum's curator Oliver Moore, is among exhibits at the "Mysteries of Ancient China" show. The exhibition, which was made possible with sponsorship from The Times, offers a £9 family ticket for readers. The exhibition continues until January 5.

Heathrow keeps record

Heathrow is still the busiest international airport, latest figures show. Heathrow handled 46.81 million international passengers in 1995 compared to Frankfurt (30.2m) and Hong Kong (28.66m). However, Chicago's O'Hare airport handled most passengers (67.25m) when domestic customers are also taken into account, according to figures from *Airline Business* magazine.

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IRA threatens wave of violence over demands

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA is planning to unleash a wave of violence in Northern Ireland and on mainland Britain if John Major fails to respond to its terms for a new ceasefire.

Republicans made clear over the weekend that the Prime Minister has a "window of opportunity" until Christmas to guarantee Sinn Fein a place at the multi-party talks at Stormont after an IRA ceasefire. If Mr Major fails to respond positively the IRA will trigger detailed plans to attack police and Army barracks in Northern Ireland and to assassinate members of the SDLP. The plan, which Mr Hume has passed to Downing Street, calls on the Government to:

■ Allow Sinn Fein into the Stormont talks soon after a renewed ceasefire;

■ Set an "indicative time-frame" for the talks so that they move to substantive issues quickly;

■ Make clear that terrorist weapons will be dealt with in line with the Mitchell Report which calls for arms to be decommissioned once there is progress in political negotiations;

■ Introduce confidence-building measures, including the release of some terrorist prisoners and reforms to the RUC.

Martin McGuinness, the leading member of Sinn Fein, said that he would "move

heaven and earth" to restore the IRA ceasefire if Mr Major responded positively to the demands. Mr Adams refused to be drawn on what would happen if Mr Major refused to respond. But speaking after the private Sinn Fein conference on Saturday, which was attended by leading members of the IRA, Mr Adams said: "John Major's reluctance in responding to what we put to him makes the task much much more difficult. The quicker Mr Major responds the better."

Ministers have been placed in a difficult position by Sinn Fein's demands. If they accept the list they will infuriate Unionists who will then walk out of the Stormont talks. If they fail to go some way to endorsing the demands, which are supported by the Irish Government, they risk being blamed for squandering a renewed chance for peace.

One senior Irish official said: "Sinn Fein are serious

about this and there is room for a ceasefire. But I have more trust in the IRA's willingness to embrace the process than the British. There is all to play for at the moment. We could have peace or, if the British do not respond, we could have full scale conflict."

British ministers are keen to respond to Sinn Fein, but they appear to be determined to do so in a way that will not alienate Unionists. Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland political development minister, said yesterday that the Government wanted republicans to join the multi-party talks at Stormont.

But he insisted that the IRA would have to declare a "genuine and unequivocal" ceasefire before Sinn Fein could take its place.

Mr Ancram told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*: "I hope that the IRA will realise that a genuine ceasefire is the right way forward for the people of Northern Ireland, many of whom are represented by Sinn Fein."

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Aircraft crashed within yards of doctors

Holidaymakers rushed to help survivors as an international drama ended 100 yards from their beach. Inigo Gilmore in reunion island and Emma Wilkins report

SURVIVORS of the hijacked Ethiopian aircraft described yesterday how holidaymakers at a five-star beach resort in the Comores Islands played a key role in saving lives. As rescue teams searched for bodies believed to be still strapped into their seats in the submerged fuselage of flight ET961, details emerged of the rescue operation.

Guests at Le Galawa Beach Hotel on Grand Comore were sipping their afternoon drinks on the beach when the aircraft appeared overhead, dipped a wing in the water and then crashed about 100 yards from the shore.

Holidaymakers, including a group of French and South African doctors, stood stunned for a few seconds before launching a flotilla of dinghies and rafts to rescue survivors. The doctors, who were dressed in their swimming costumes, tended to the injured and dying on the beach. The hotel's conference suite was turned into a makeshift morgue.

Franklin Huddle, the US consul in Bombay, who survived the crash with his spectacles intact, told how he clung to a passing windsurfer's board with his wife Shazia before they were rescued by hotel staff. "I thought I was dead when we hit the water," said Mr Huddle, 53, who was sitting next to his wife in the business class section when the aircraft crashed.

"When the plane hit the

water, it hit gently. There were a couple of good-sized furnaces but not too violent, and then a hard swerve. On impact with the water the plane broke in two," he said. Mr Huddle suffered minor leg injuries. His wife also escaped without serious injury.

Lior Fuchs, from Israel, said he thought he was about to die when the captain announced he had lost an engine and was going to attempt an emergency landing. "I felt a great jolt and was thrown out of my chair. Water came into the plane. Somehow I got out, fighting my way up through water and pieces of debris."

Mr Fuchs helped to save a woman who was trapped in her seat with a baby. "I saw a woman with a baby who was caught. I swam to her, freed them from the wreckage and inflated the life preserver for her and for the baby. We got up together on a boat," he said. "There were a few more survivors and I think two thirds of the plane was



Wreckage from the crashed aircraft lies in shallow water off the holiday resort of La Galawa Beach yesterday. Divers and doctors were on hand to help

and cracked in two. For about three minutes there was absolute silence — people were stunned. But immediately the hotel staff and guests moved into action. People rushed out to the wreckage by boat and were soon ferrying the injured and dead to shore.

Mr van der Walt and a fellow Pretoria doctor, Richard Ing, together with a female French doctor, set up an emergency treatment post.

The hotel brought blankets and medical supplies to the beach. "The first ones on the beach were not very serious. We were able to help them and they were transported to hospital but later they began bringing bodies," said Mr van der Walt.

They worked without pause for an hour and a half. "We recovered 30 people who were saved. The rest were dead," Mr van der Walt said.

Alphonso Dala, a Nigerian passenger, said he was turned upside down after the impact. "I felt myself turning. Then there was a big bang and I was in the water. I was in my seat in the water," said Mr Dala, who was not injured.

Natalie Bier, a receptionist at the hotel, said she heard a loud bang as the plane hit the water. "Straight after that everybody was running and we were getting the boats out, going to try to rescue any

survivors we could."

Most of the survivors found by hotel staff and guests were critically injured, Ms Bier said. "We also recovered a lot of people who didn't make it, who died on the boat or at the beach."

"In the water you don't know where the noise is coming from, it's all around. I rushed to the surface. I could not believe it," M Coinchelin and colleagues immediately swam to rescue people from the wreckage.

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Hijacker slugged whisky as he grabbed controls

By EMMA WILKINS



ONE of the hijackers of Flight ET961 grabbed the controls and tried to fly the aircraft while brandishing a bottle of whisky in his other hand, the co-pilot said yesterday.

Yonas Mekuria, aged 35, who survived with minor injuries, said one of the terrorists appeared to be drunk as he waved the bottle of Johnnie Walker Black Label, which he had stolen from the duty-free cart on the plane.

Mr Mekuria was punched as he was bundled out of his seat in the cockpit by the three Ethiopian hijackers.

"It was pretty bizarre. They were interfering with procedures, grabbing at the instruments. They snatched the radio from the jack," Mr Mekuria.

As Capt Leul Abate, aged 42, struggled to restore order to the flight deck, a hijacker ripped his head-set off, severing communication with the control tower at Moroni airport in the Comores.

Mr Mekuria said Captain Abate pleaded with the hijackers to let him land at Moroni because the aircraft was running out of fuel.

The hijackers, however, who were armed with an axe, a fire extinguisher, and what they claimed was a bomb, refused to cut short the flight.

"I guess they understood it, but they didn't give damn,"

Mohamed Amin, 33, the television cameraman whose footage of the Ethiopian famine 12 years ago moved the world, was confirmed last night as one of the victims of the hijacking. It was his film that was the catalyst for Live Aid, the most successful fundraising venture in history, which raised millions of pounds worldwide, to ease Ethiopia's suffering. The Kenyan-born cameraman was on his way home to Nairobi.

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"I guess they understood it, but they didn't give damn,"

Mr Mekuria said.

The hijack began shortly after the aircraft took off from Addis Ababa on a flight to the Ivory Coast on Saturday. Among the aircraft's passengers were an unusually large number of diplomats: the United States consul to Bombay, the Hungarian ambassador to Kenya, two officials from the Italian embassy in Addis Ababa.

Mr Mekuria said Captain Abate pleaded with the hijackers to let him land at Moroni because the aircraft was running out of fuel.

The hijackers, however, who were armed with an axe, a fire extinguisher, and what they claimed was a bomb, refused to cut short the flight.

"I guess they understood it, but they didn't give damn,"



Women survive jet crash

Continued from page 1
brandishing a whisky bottle and claiming to be carrying a bomb. He demanded the pilot fly to Australia and ignored the crew's warning that the plane did not have enough fuel.

Among the 120 feared dead were the television cameraman, Mohamed Amin, whose graphic footage of the 1984 Ethiopian famine launched the Live Aid charity.

A British aid worker, Andy Meakins, who worked for the Tear Fund Foundation, was also feared dead. He had worked in Ethiopia from 1976 and his wife and three children live in Addis Ababa.

Divers were last night trying to recover some of the bodies still trapped inside the fuselage, but rescue teams said there was no hope of



An Ethiopian Airlines 767, the type of jet that crashed

finding any more survivors.

Mr Anders told how his daughter and Katie met when they were both working for the television channel, MTV, and decided earlier this year to take time off from their jobs to see the world. "They are both very gifted, but they wanted to travel and what else could we do but wish them God speed?" Mr Anders said at his Surrey home. A call from a United Nations official told Mr An-

ders and his wife Patsy that their daughter was safe.

"We knew she was taking that flight, but before we saw any news about the crash this kind man from the UN telephoned to say 'Your daughter has been in an air crash but she is safe. I did not know whether to laugh or cry'."

Katie Hayes' brother, Andrew, said: "My sister is a smoker and so she was sitting at the back of the plane."

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'Thank you. Bye.'



BRINGING YOU THE WORLD'S LEADING LOTTERY

Police swoop with grenades to end the luxury kidnap

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE used stun grenades to free a disabled man from kidnappers who had been holding him to ransom in a luxury hotel.

Craig Allee's businessman father, Gordon, had gone to the police after his son vanished from home in Liverpool. Demands from the gang were traced to the four-star West Lodge Park hotel in Barnet, north London.

Scotland Yard marksmen and detectives from the South-East regional crime squad battered down the doors of two luxury rooms, tossed in the grenades and rescued the hostage unharmed.

Last night, Merseyside detectives were interviewing four men and a woman about the kidnap and possible links to Merseyside's violent underworld of guns and drugs. The gang had been demanding £51,000.

Detective Superintendent John Kerruish, in charge of the operation, said that Mr Allee, who has spina bifida, had been examined by a doctor and interviewed by police. His father and mother were also interviewed by police.

"Other than financial gain, we have yet to establish a clear motive," he said. "We have to



West Lodge Park recommended by Egon Ronay with praise for "cosseting little extras".

question the people involved and find out why that particular sum of money was involved."

"Mr Allee suffered from spina bifida, he is only 21, he was driven hundreds of miles. But he is now quite cheerful and in good spirits and is grateful for what was done for him."

Mr Kerruish said that people had been with him practically all the time since his kidnap, but at the particular moment when the room was raided he had been left alone.

The kidnap is believed to have begun early on Saturday morning when Mr Allee was in bed at his mother's home in Alfred Mews, in

Liverpool city centre.

Mr Allee, who is not immobile but needs daily medication, was believed to have been driven down the M6 overnight, on to the M25 before dawn and then taken to stay in the hotel.

The West Lodge Park, which boasts an entry in the latest Egon Ronay guide praising "cosseting little extras" in the rooms, is surrounded by a 35-acre park. It also won an award in 1995 and has a highly praised restaurant.

The party booked in at 7.30am and paid cash for two rooms for one night. The gang took the Lavender room with a four-poster

bed for their hostage at £110 a night.

At one stage, rooms were booked for a second night.

Russell Cox, 20, a porter, delivered a soft drink for Mr Allee. Mr Cox said: "We chatted for a couple of minutes."

"He was extremely relaxed. I asked him how he was and he said that he was OK, and that everything was fine."

"I would never have guessed there was anything wrong, he seemed completely happy."

Housekeeper Yolanda Ballester, 29, also went into the room during the day, believing it was empty. She said: "Before they even said anything I was in the room. There was a young lad."

"He was sitting in the chair. I thought he was tying his shoelaces but later found out that he had spina bifida. He didn't actually say anything."

I heard a lady's voice ask, 'Can I help you?'

"I apologised and said I didn't realise there was anyone in the room and made my exit fairly quickly. I was more embarrassed really."

Asked if she thought anything was unusual, she added: "Nothing suspicious at all."

Tonia King, the duty manageress



Craig Allee: his father went to police after demand for £51,000

said when police first arrived, they asked if any of the guests had made calls to Liverpool. Phone bills for rooms were checked.

The officers then asked for a room overlooking the car park and were given a meeting room on the second floor, directly above the

four-poster room. Police broke in when they knew Mr Allee was alone and arrested a woman in the second room. Miss King said that staff and guests heard loud bangs and shouting from two rooms after police broke in, and the fire alarm went off briefly.

Two men were arrested shortly afterwards in the car park and two more men walked into the hotel later unaware of what had happened. A policeman posing as a porter led them away and they were arrested.

No sign of spin doctors in Blair's downbeat discs

The Labour leader avoided the pretentious in his appearance on Desert Island Discs, but his selection left Richard Morrison, Arts Editor, wishing he had taken a risk.

SO NOW we know. New Labour; old rockers. There's no room for Blur on Blair's desert island, nor any of the other luminaries of Brigpop. Instead, the Leader of the Opposition revealed his eight favourite records to be a solid, indeed stolid, mixture of the downbeat and the obscure, mostly dating from before Britain's youngest generation of voters was born.

It was hard for even the most rabid right-wing conspiracy theorist to detect the hand of a Labour spin-doctor in this anodyne and whisky choice, unless it was by the very exclusion of any music that might reveal something of the leader's personality.

No, this seemed all too clearly to be Mr Blair's own work: a list loaded with personal and family associations. True, he didn't go quite as far as Neil Kinnock, who included a faintly embarrassing tape of his two-year-old daughter singing *Horace the Horse* among his eight records. Nor did he emulate John Major's somewhat bizarre tribute to Norma (the Mad Scene from *Lucia di Lammermoor*).

But he did choose Debussy's *Clair de Lune* simply because it was his "mother's favourite record", and The Beatles' *In My Life* — with its fine "I know I'll never lose affection for people and things that went before" — was a touching reference to Mr Blair's own father.

Similarly, pre-nuptial days of wine and roses were evoked by Bruce Springsteen's *Fourth of July, Asbury Park (Sandy)*, with which Mr Blair apparently used to re-

gale his sweetheart when she came round to his "extremely groovy flat in St John's Wood". Are there, incidentally, *any* extremely groovy flats in St John's Wood?

Elsewhere, Mr Blair's musical choice verged on the maudlin. A dreamy acoustic band called Ezio was granted its 15 seconds of fame, while Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* was revealed as the unlikely inspirational background when Mr Blair completes his stirring conference speeches. Paul Rogers, singer of the seventies group Free, was described as "the man whose voice I most wanted to emulate". Then came a crackly old blues record by Robert Johnson and *Memories of the Alhambra* by the turn-of-the-century Spanish composer Francisco Tárrega.

At least he didn't follow in the well-worn tracks of earlier political castaways. He didn't choose extracts from cricket commentaries (Major, Douglas-Hamilton), or hymns (Thatcher, Callaghan, Heath, Douglas-Hamilton), or brass-band music (Thatcher, Callaghan). Nor does the Blair list contain any glibly political allusions — as Mr Major attempted five years ago with *Rhapsody in Blue* and *The Best is Yet to Come*.

I just wish that it didn't seem so earnest, dull and dated. But nobody ever achieved anything in politics by revealing pretentious musical tastes on *Desert Island Discs*. Ask Paddy Ashdown. He chose Chinese folk music and a concerto for two mandolins — and look where it got him.

BLAIR'S DESERT ISLAND DISCS

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cancé Today | performed by Ezio. |
| Clair de Lune | by Debussy. |
| In My Life | by The Beatles. |
| 4th of July, Asbury Park (Sandy) | ... by Bruce Springsteen. |
| Adagio for Strings, op. 11 | by Samuel Barber. |
| Cross Road Blues | Robert Johnson. |
| Wishing Well | Free. |
| Recuerdos de la Alhambra | by Francisco Tárrega |

Guitar man who tried to pluck heart strings

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leader used his "desert island" exile as an opportunity to talk openly of his failed amorous advances and his reluctance to match his wife's devotion to study.

Mr Blair admitted that it took "quite a long time" before he was able to impress Cherie Booth, his fellow trainee barrister and wife-to-be. Eventually, the lorn lover made the breakthrough at a lunch organised by his former head of chambers and now Shadow Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Laird. "He invited us to lunch, he disappeared and I remember we were still there at dinner time so something must have happened along the

way." Cherie Booth's influence clearly went further than the realms of romance. Acknowledging that his wife is more intelligent than himself, Mr Blair admitted that he could not match her capacity for study while training for the Bar. While she pored over case law in the Lincoln's Inn library, he confessed to spending more time in local public houses, and said that he relied on her assistance to pass through his Bar exams.

"I thought — and I still think — she's one of the most unusual and interesting people I've met," Mr Blair, whose luxury was a classical guitar.

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Expert denounces National Gallery's Rubens



Brush strokes in the disputed *Samson and Delilah*, left, are described by one expert as staccato, compared with other Rubenses. Right, a detail of his *Death of Seneca*



Fresh blow discredits

£6 million prized exhibit

BY DALVA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

FRESH evidence casting doubt on the authenticity of one of the National Gallery's most prized exhibits, Rubens's *Samson and Delilah*, has been unearthed in Belgian archives.

Jan Caluwaerts, a Flemish genealogical consultant to the National Archives in Brussels, who uncovered the 17th-century documents in Antwerp, believes the painting is a copy. His research reinforces the view of artists and scholars who are convinced that the original is lost. The gallery acquired its picture in 1980 for £25 million, or £6 million at today's prices.

Mr Caluwaerts found that archives relating to Nicholas Rockox, the patron who commissioned a *Samson and Delilah* painting from Rubens, shows that his Antwerp home and its contents remained with his descendants until 1712 – 12 years after the gallery says its 1609 picture entered the Prince of Lichten-



Rubens, master of vibrant brushwork

stein's collection. Mr Caluwaerts said: "I believe this cannot be the original."

The only objects sold off from Rockox's collection were some coins. This was a very wealthy family and they had no reason to sell anything.

They were proud to have such a painting because of the reputation of Rubens."

The gallery bought its picture at Christie's, whose catalogue said it was mentioned in inventories of 1653 and 1692. However, artists researching the picture through Mr Caluwaerts's archives since its purchase found that the auction house had mistakenly described the inventories as recording the original when in fact they recorded "a copy".

Euphrasine Doxlaids, an artist and award-winning scholar, and Steven Harvey and Siân Hopkins, painters, also discovered that in 1700 the Prince of Lichtenstein accepted that his painting was a copy.

Throughout its 180 years in the prince's important collection, it was always attributed to a minor hand, Jan van den Hoecke. Only in 1929 was it hailed as the real thing by a scholar who made a number

of other Rubens "retributions" which have subsequently fallen.

Ms Doxlaids said: "This picture is betrayed by brush strokes which are almost staccato and broken up, rather than having been done with one sweep of the wrist, which you see in all other Rubens. There is an absence of Rubens's vibrant, pulsating-with-life strokes. In actual Rubens, each stroke is a *tour de force*. This is clumsy and awkward."

Further evidence has since been found in the 1653 inventory of another Antwerp artist, Jeremias Wildens, whose father Jan was a landscape artist employed by Rubens to paint backgrounds and trees in some of his pictures.

The artists believe that Wildens' description of his *Samson and Delilah* as a copy is particularly significant. In an age when artists were connoisseurs and just a few years after the deaths of

Rubens and Rockox, Wildens would have known that his work was not the original.

The National Gallery, pointing to leading scholars who do accept the attribution, conducted a dendrochronology test to date the wood panel and to back its case. Peter Klein from Hamburg University produced data that led the gallery to proclaim that the picture could have been painted in 1609. Another dendrochronologist, Professor Michael Ballie of Queen's University in Belfast, backed Klein's report.

However, Coralie Mills, an Edinburgh dendrochronologist with AOC (Scotland), whose clients include the National Trust for Scotland, said: "It is unsafe to say that 1609 is any more likely than a later date such as 1620." Another specialist, Martin Bridge, an academic whose projects include dating the Tudor warship Mary Rose, noted: "All Klein should be

saying is that the range is 1597 to 1630." When Dr Klein was asked by *The Times* to detail other paintings that could be closely related to the *Samson* data, he did not mention works of a similar date, such as *The Erection of The Cross* of 1610-11. He listed later works such as the portrait *Isabella* in Vienna, which has been redated by scholars from 1609 to the 1620s after dendrochronology tests.

Michael Daley, director of Artwatch UK, the campaigning body which has been critical of National Gallery policies, and who has been researching the Rubens with the other artists for the past year, said: "It does seem astonishing that the National Gallery ever considered buying this picture as a Rubens. Everything that could be wrong with it is. Its look is not consistent with a single bona fide Rubens."

Christopher Wright, a scholar of 17th-century art

whose research prompted the gallery to de-attributed another picture in its collection, said that despite his respect for the gallery's curator, Christopher Brown, "in my opinion, I've always thought this work was rubbish". He added: "They have made a mistake with this. We all make mistakes. It's the defence of the mistake, not the mistake itself, that is to be criticised."

Another Old Masters scholar, Richard Fremière, said: "It is so vulgar. The crudeness of the picture, the colour, the manner of portraying it is like no highly intelligent, sensitive artist could have painted. Rubens is a great painter. This is not by a great painter."

Neither the National Gallery nor Christie's was prepared to comment on challenges to the attribution. A gallery spokeswoman said that since the dendrochronology test it regarded the matter as closed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Church 'bullies' attacked by Carey

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, last night condemned Church bullies who failed to set an example to non-Christians.

Dr Carey, referring to the recent service at Southwark Cathedral to mark the 20th anniversary of the lesbian and gay Christian movement, said: "It is to our shame that many of those who do not describe themselves as religious observe ... moral injunctions so much better than our own bullying, loud-mouthed controversialists."

Pensions inquiry

The Home Office is to investigate the rising number of police officers who retire early on injury pensions for mental and stress problems. Officers get a full pension in advance of normal entitlement plus extra payments for injury.

Dentist charged

A dentist who practised while suspended has been charged with assaulting patients in her care. Diane Wilshire, 47, was suspended by the General Dental Council on August 30 but continued to see patients at Eastwood, Nottinghamshire.

Spitfire sold

A Spitfire salvaged from mudflats in the Humber estuary by two aircraft enthusiasts from Oxford has been bought by an American oil millionaire for £73,000. It is to be the centrepiece of a D-Day museum in New Orleans.

Wrong track

An accident exercise involving 600 people was abandoned yesterday at Ore, East Sussex, when an old train being used to simulate a crash was found to be contaminated by asbestos. The exercise had been planned for more than a year.

Lights out

A football chairman had to pay £200 for the return of six bulbs stolen from his club's floodlights. Ken Beattie of Morpeth Town, a Northumbrian team, was told by a caller that he would find the lights in a garden shed.

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 ALLIED DOMEQ

I was paid £2 for testing radiation, says 'guinea-pig'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER radar operator described yesterday how he had been a guinea-pig in radiation experiments on 200 military and civilian personnel to test the effects of fall-out. After the Ministry of Defence confirmed that such experiments were carried out over 30 years from the 1950s, Keith Hopwood said he was amazed they had remained secret for so long.

He was a 21-year-old RAF radar operator based at Linton-on-Ouse, near York, when he volunteered to go to Porton Down, the chemical defence research establishment in Wiltshire, to participate in the experiments. He said: "I was paid £2 to take part. That was a lot of money then, when I was earning only £5 a week."

"I had a bottomless rubber cup put on my bare arm and radioactive material was poured into it to see how it would be absorbed into the skin. The experiment lasted

two hours." He was told to sign the Official Secrets Act for a second time before he left. Mr Hopwood, 55, of York, said he had no ill-effects.

The latest revelations about radiation tests at Porton Down, Aldermaston, the atomic weapons establishment in Berkshire, and at the atomic energy research establishment at Harwell, Oxfordshire, followed the declassification of documents relating to the experiments in Britain and the United States.

Michael Roche, chairman of the Porton Down Veterans Association, is among several former human guinea-pigs taking their cases to the European Court of Human Rights. This week, two former servicemen who were involved in the Christmas Island atomic bomb tests are to have their cases reviewed by the Strasbourg court.

Following the release of further documents on the radiation experiments at Porton

Down, Aldermaston and Harwell, including US Government memoranda, the MoD denied that any of the personnel who took part had died or suffered ill-effects. A spokesman said the volunteers were involved in experiments with radio isotopes and never received more than 0.005 millisieverts of radioactivity, which compared with the average natural background dose of 1.87 millisieverts a year.

Some of the records, he said, had been released by the Public Records Office in Kew, although the records of the experiments at Porton Down were no longer available. The MoD insisted that all the experiments were ethical.

Documents released by the US Department of Energy showed that British experiments involved radioactive substances being inhaled, injected, swallowed or eaten. The tests were in collaboration with US laboratories.



Daisy Norris at home before flying out. The Foreign Office and the British Legion advised against the trip

Widow defies warnings to see husband's grave

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A 79-YEAR-OLD widow flew out yesterday to visit her husband's war grave in Libya in defiance of warnings from the Foreign Office and Royal British Legion.

Daisy Norris, from Beeston, Nottinghamshire, has waited 54 years to say farewell to her first husband, Charles Crawley, a Royal Marine who died at Tobruk on September 14, 1942, aged 24. His body now lies in Grave 13, Row C, Plot 9, among 2,282 graves tended there by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Very few Britons in recent years have been granted permission to visit the cemetery, or the commission's other sites in Tripoli, Bengazi and Acroma. The Foreign Office warned Mrs Norris of the danger she faced travelling to the country with no British diplomatic representation and where travel insurance, including medical emergencies, is virtually impossible because of a ban on international flights. United Nations sanctions are still in force against



Mrs Norris with her husband, Charles Crawley, a Royal Marine who died, aged 24, at Tobruk in 1942

Tripoli over its alleged support of terrorists.

Mrs Norris's persistence paid off when she was granted a three-month visa in September. The widow — her second husband died in 1970 — will travel alone. She will visit Tunisia for a month and make the final arrangements before travelling to Tripoli by bus, where she must report to the authorities before the arduous 300-mile journey to Tobruk.

"I can't believe I'm going after all this time," said Mrs Norris before her departure last night. "I've had to do it all myself. The Foreign Office weren't very nice about it at all; right to the end they kept saying I was causing a lot of problems and I was very lucky to get a visa. I just wiped my hands of the British Legion, who said it couldn't be done."

"I really feel I have beaten the system. Everyone told me it was dangerous and the Libyans couldn't be trusted, but what are they going to do to a 79-year-old woman?"

Dental warning on fluoride after £1,000 payout

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE British Dental Association gave a warning yesterday of the dangers of swallowing fluoride toothpaste after Colgate-Palmolive paid £1,000 to a boy whose teeth appeared to have been damaged because of the habit.

Colgate-Palmolive made the "goodwill" payment to Sharon and Trevor Isaacs of Highams Park, east London, on behalf of their son, Kevin, ten, whose teeth were diagnosed as having been mottled by dental fluorosis.

Mrs Isaacs said she had always "boiled" Colgate's Minty Gel with added fluoride and made sure her son brushed his teeth twice a day using the paste without the recommended amount recommended by the manufacturers. She said Kevin used to swallow the paste rather than washing it out, but she had rung Colgate to ask whether that would do any harm and had been told it would not.

Dr John Renshaw, a spokesman for the British Dental Association, said yesterday: "If that advice was given it was certainly wrong. No one should ingest products that are not intended to be ingested and that certainly applies to fluoride toothpaste. A child swallowing fluoride tooth-

paste on a regular basis would certainly run a risk of overdoing it with fluoride, which can lead to very unsightly brown mottling of the teeth."

The £1,000 paid in Kevin Isaacs's case relates to the expected cost of creating his teeth after the mottled enamel has been removed.

Dr Renshaw said: "Colgate-Palmolive seem to be opening a very big door for further possible claims, but the British Dental Association's view is very firmly that fluoride toothpaste is a valuable weapon against tooth decay. The trouble is that the concentration of fluoride in a paste intended for topical application, that is by direct use on the teeth in brushing, is much higher than the trace of fluoride that might be added to water for ingestion."

Dr Renshaw added: "We can understand Colgate-Palmolive paying £1,000 if the company is satisfied that it gave Mrs Isaacs wrong advice about her son's habit of ingesting the paste. We would be very unhappy if they paid out for any other reason."

The Isaacs family did not live in an area with fluoridated water. Health organisations are seeking further fluoridation of supplies.

Canada please listen: Overfishing by man has ruined Atlantic cod stocks, not overeating by seals..

As justification for the wholesale slaughter of harp seals, the Canadian Government blamed the seals for the demise of Atlantic cod stocks. However, harp seals rarely eat valuable Atlantic cod, mostly consuming commercially unimportant species.

Last December, 27 marine biologists from 15 countries signed a statement which concluded, "Overfishing remains the only scientifically demonstrated conservation problem related to fish stock collapse". In a recently published paper, Canadian biologist, Dr Jeff Hutchings concluded that there is still no evidence of any effect of seal predation related to the collapse of cod stocks or the rate of their recovery. Help us get this point across to the Canadian government. S.O.S. Sign On for Seals, add your name to IFAW's campaign against cruelty and receive an information pack.

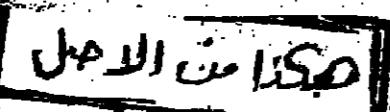
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Blessed are the peacemakers at divided abbey

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE peacemakers have ridden into a town where vicars keep resigning. The trouble-shooting monks answered a call to leave their retreat and commute 20 miles by car to try to heal divisions between the church and laity at Selby, North Yorkshire. They were called by the Archbishop of York, who said there was "a dark cloud" hovering over the abbey.

The parish church is the magnificent, 11th-century Selby Abbey, which is as big as many cathedrals. The brothers hope to use prayers and discussions to heal conflicts as the abbey starts looking for its fourth vicar in five years.

Last summer, a Church of England inquiry commissioned by the Rt Rev David Hope, the Archbishop of York, spoke of "widespread interpersonal difficulties". It called for "forgiveness and reconciliation from church and individuals after many years of misunderstanding and antagonism".

Although the report did not go into details, the problems are understood to involve a clash of authority between the clergy and lay administrators

talking to the people involved, we shall achieve our aims. But only God knows what the result will be."

Father Grant said he was convinced people in the parish were willing to patch up their differences and put the interests of the church first.

Dr Hope turned to the monks after seeing their work when he was Bishop of Wakefield more than ten years ago. He hopes their intercession will ensure that a new vicar, who should be appointed by Easter, will be able to make a fresh start. Interviews for the post begin on Friday, December 13.

A spokesman for the Archbishop said: "The brethren of the community are part of the assessment of spiritual and pastoral needs in the abbey as it moves with confidence into the future."

Roy Matthews, canon at the abbey, said he hoped that, with the aid of the monks, the problems of the previous years could be solved in time for the appointment of a new vicar. He said: "It is too early to see if the presence of Father Grant and his brethren are having any effect, but I think they can only do good by being here."



Monks with a mission: Father Nicholas Stebbing, Father Grant and Brother James Springett at Selby Abbey

Burden of slimming and steroids may have proved too much



Donovan and his second wife, Diana. The photographer was found hanged on Friday

TERENCE DONOVAN, the photographer, was found hanged on Friday in west London warehouse which he had been converting into a studio. Mr Donovan, who was 60, had suffered recently from a skin complaint for which, it is reported, he had been prescribed steroids. Mr Donovan had, it seems, been increasingly depressed over the past few weeks.

By all accounts Mr Donovan was, despite his weight, a fitness enthusiast who neither smoked nor drank alcohol. Recently he was said to have lost nearly 5st in as many months.

Photographers are apt to suffer from contact dermatitis, a form of eczema, as a result of exposure to the

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

chemicals used in their trade. Once a patient has been sensitised to a chemical the skin troubles are reactivated by contact not only with the same substance, but with many others.

The usual treatment for severe generalised dermatitis, or even not so severe eczema if the face is badly affected, is with oral corticosteroids in large doses. The use of heavy

doses of oral steroids is never without risk. The long continued use of steroid preparations produces weight increase, moon face, hunched shoulders, acne, hirsutism, muscle weakness, brittle bones and high blood pressure. The drugs can also affect immune response and glucose tolerance and cause peptic ulceration.

Short courses of steroids

such as are usually prescribed by dermatologists produce few side-effects, but even a short course of high-dose oral steroids can induce a wide range of psychiatric problems. Changes in mood, either unreasonable elation or depression to the extent of producing feelings of hopelessness and suicidal thoughts, are the most common undesirable side-effects.

Other psychiatric conditions have been reported with steroid therapy and the over-excitation they sometimes cause can produce mania together with bizarre and aggressive behaviour. If someone as health-conscious as Mr Donovan suffered depression as a consequence of an unsightly and disturbing skin disease

and was found to be sensitive to steroid treatment it is not difficult to understand how the combination could lead to despair.

The mood in patients prescribed high-dose steroids needs to be constantly assessed and relatives carefully questioned, for patients are liable to put on a brave face when confronted by the doctor. Mr Donovan's rapid weight loss may also have been a factor in his psychiatric state. Over-enthusiastic dieting can induce depression. Dieters should aim to lose not more than 2lb a week, whereas, according to reports, Mr Donovan was shedding his weight at over twice this rate.

Obituary, page 27

Trials threatened

Up to 150 prosecutions — including rapes and murders — may fail to reach court in the North of England because evidence was destroyed in the arson attack at a Home Office laboratory at Wetherby, West Yorkshire, on November 11.

Poet dies

The poet Sorley Maclean died yesterday in Inverness. Mr Maclean, 85, was formerly headmaster at Plockton High School on the mainland opposite Skye. He leaves a widow and two daughters.

Obituary, page 27

Testing moment

A driving examiner abandoned a test and called a taxi at Arnold, Nottinghamshire, saying that the driver was too dangerous. Margaret Wiggin, 54, taking her test for the third time, said: "He can't have been that frightened."

Record twitch

Lee Evans, 36, from Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, has travelled 72,116 miles around the British Isles and seen 374 types of bird this year, 15 more than in 1990, which earned him a place in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

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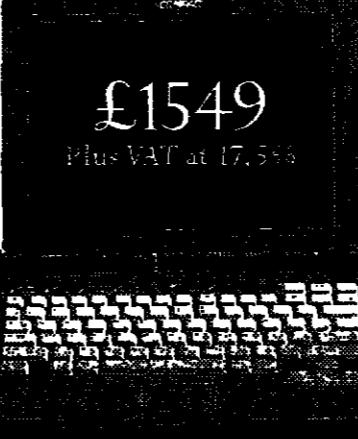
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Britain calls for reforms to court of human rights

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN will today call on the European Court of Human Rights to reform itself after a string of rulings against the Government. It wants changes in the way the court's judges are chosen and how they reach decisions.

Ministers have been angered by decisions such as that on the Gibraltar shooting of three IRA members by the SAS. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has gone to Strasbourg at the request of cabinet colleagues after they decided not to pull out of the court but to seek change from within.

The court is also expected to rule today on the Government's banning of the film *Visions of Ecstasy* because it depicts a nun seducing the crucified Christ. Nigel Wintrobe, who made the 20-minute film, fell foul of blasphemy laws dating from 1189 when he presented it to the British Board of Film Classification.

Lord Mackay will present three proposals. First, he will ask for new procedures for vetting candidates who are proposed as judges and a standard selection criteria. There is concern that too many of the human rights

Ministers feel the court has

gone beyond its remit by dealing with specific matters that should be left to member states. Britain wants the judges should adopt a more tolerant approach, taking account of the "decisions of local democratic institutions and tribunals, which are best placed to assess issues of this kind".

Second, the Government is to push for reform in the sensitive area of how the court reaches its decisions. It wants the court to pay more heed to British circumstances and traditions. Officials believe that if the court had properly applied this doctrine, known as the margin of appreciation, at least a dozen rulings against Britain might have gone in the Government's favour.

These include two this year. The court condemned a decision in British courts that a journalist, Bill Goodwin, should reveal his sources and it ruled against British laws under which juveniles are detained at Her Majesty's pleasure.

Britain has had the third highest number of cases brought against it, after Italy and Turkey. In the past 30 years 80 cases have been brought against Britain and breaches of human rights have been found in 37.

and to estimate any likely shortfall of money for good causes.

The issue arose after Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, circulated a note to ministers setting out the case for the introduction of side-betting to coincide with the new midweek lottery draw in January. He and a number of other ministers are concerned by the effect of the National Lottery on the racing and betting industry.

Mrs Bottomley has argued that the public would lose confidence in the lottery if it was being used to boost the profits of bookmakers. She would also prefer to see first



Angus Hobdell yesterday. "They are making me out to be a potential killer"

Shooting champion may quit Britain

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A BRITISH shooting champion is making plans to leave the country because of the proposed handgun ban.

Angus Hobdell, 31, from Camberley, Surrey, is the European champion in Practical Pistol Shooting and came tenth in the world championships. The quiet-spoken environmental engineer learnt to shoot in the cadet force at Dulwich College, southeast London. He devotes up to four hours a day to training in "action" shooting, which involves firing his 38 target pistol from a variety of positions and heights, overcoming obstacles on the range.

"It is my life," he said. "It tests me and I like winning. In England, firearms are not for self-defence, they are for sport. Because of Thomas Hamilton, they are making me out to be a potential killer and I'm not."

"If I want to compete successfully in the European championships in Greece in 1998, I am likely to take a huge chunk of time and go abroad to defend my title, and await the outcome of that. If that means going somewhere in Europe for six months to get a permit, I may have to relocate if that's what it takes to defend my title."



Browne-Wilkinson called for scrutiny by courts

Peers seek curbs on police bugging

By FRANCES GIBB

OPPOSITION peers backed by senior legal figures will press this week for safeguards to ensure that judges have control over sweeping new powers allowing police to place bugs and telephone taps on private premises.

The Police Bill, which legalises surreptitious entry by police to private property and surveillance, has been attacked by peers who include a senior law lord, Lord Browne-Wilkinson.

He argues that as well as giving police new powers to tackle organised crime, the Bill will affect anyone who "happens to cross a rogue's path", such as a lawyer or journalist.

Liberty, the civil liberties group, has welcomed the placing of police bugging on a statutory footing. But it says the failure to make the powers subject to judicial scrutiny means the legislation could breach the European Convention on Human Rights.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson is concerned that there will be no scrutiny of the authorisation of surveillance powers. The Government, he says, is proposing to sanction entry by police without any warrant from the courts "but under administrative action".

Opposition peers will seek changes when the Bill starts its committee stage tomorrow.

Major intervenes to settle cabinet dispute over lottery side-betting

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR has intervened in a dispute between ministers over proposals to allow bookmakers to run "golden number" side-bets on the National Lottery.

Side-betting would enable the country's 8,000 bookmakers to offer people the chance of winning £500 for three winning numbers—where the lottery pays just £10. But ministers are split over whether it should go ahead.

Since the start of the lottery two years ago, more than 700 bookies

have gone out of business, with the loss of 3,500 jobs. Side-betting would also remove the anomaly that bets can be made on the Irish lottery result but not on the National Lottery.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, leads a number of ministers opposed to side-betting. They believe the money paid to good causes would fall as players switched to betting on the result rather than buying lottery tickets.

However, free-marketeers disagree and Mr Major has asked officials to draw up an analysis of the pros and cons of side-betting.

and to estimate any likely shortfall of money for good causes.

The issue arose after Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, circulated a note to ministers setting out the case for the introduction of side-betting to coincide with the new midweek lottery draw in January.

He and a number of other ministers are concerned by the effect of the National Lottery on the racing and betting industry.

Mrs Bottomley has argued that the public would lose confidence in the lottery if it was being used to boost the profits of bookmakers. She would also prefer to see first

whether the midweek lottery is successful. Mrs Bottomley would prefer to help the racing industry by offering funds from the National Lottery Sports Fund.

Mr Howard's supporters are convinced that the lottery would not be affected and point to the Irish lottery, where players who side-bet always buy a lottery ticket for the jackpot prize.

They also believe it is anomalous that people are allowed to bet on Irish lottery numbers. Since July betting shops have offered bets on "Lucky Choice" or Golden Numbers. The turnover is already esti-

mated at £80 million, of which £16 million is profit.

A spokesman for Camelot said last night: "Side-betting would have a negative impact on the National Lottery. Using the Irish experience as an example, sales are likely to go down by 10 to 20 per cent, which represents between £500 million and £1 billion a year. This of course would mean a large decrease in revenue for good causes."

Tom Kelly, spokesman for the Betting Office Licence Association, said the industry had campaigned hard for a change. "The lottery will always have an irresistible lure and

we could not possibly match the lottery jackpot." He said that it was the first time that bookmakers had not been allowed to take bets on a future event.

A spokesman for the Ladbrokes group, which runs 1,800 betting offices, said last night: "We do not believe it would affect the National Lottery. We believe side-betting represents more deregulation and we support it. It is unjust our industry has suffered so much because of the lottery."

Lottery projects, page 12
Camelot magazine, page 56

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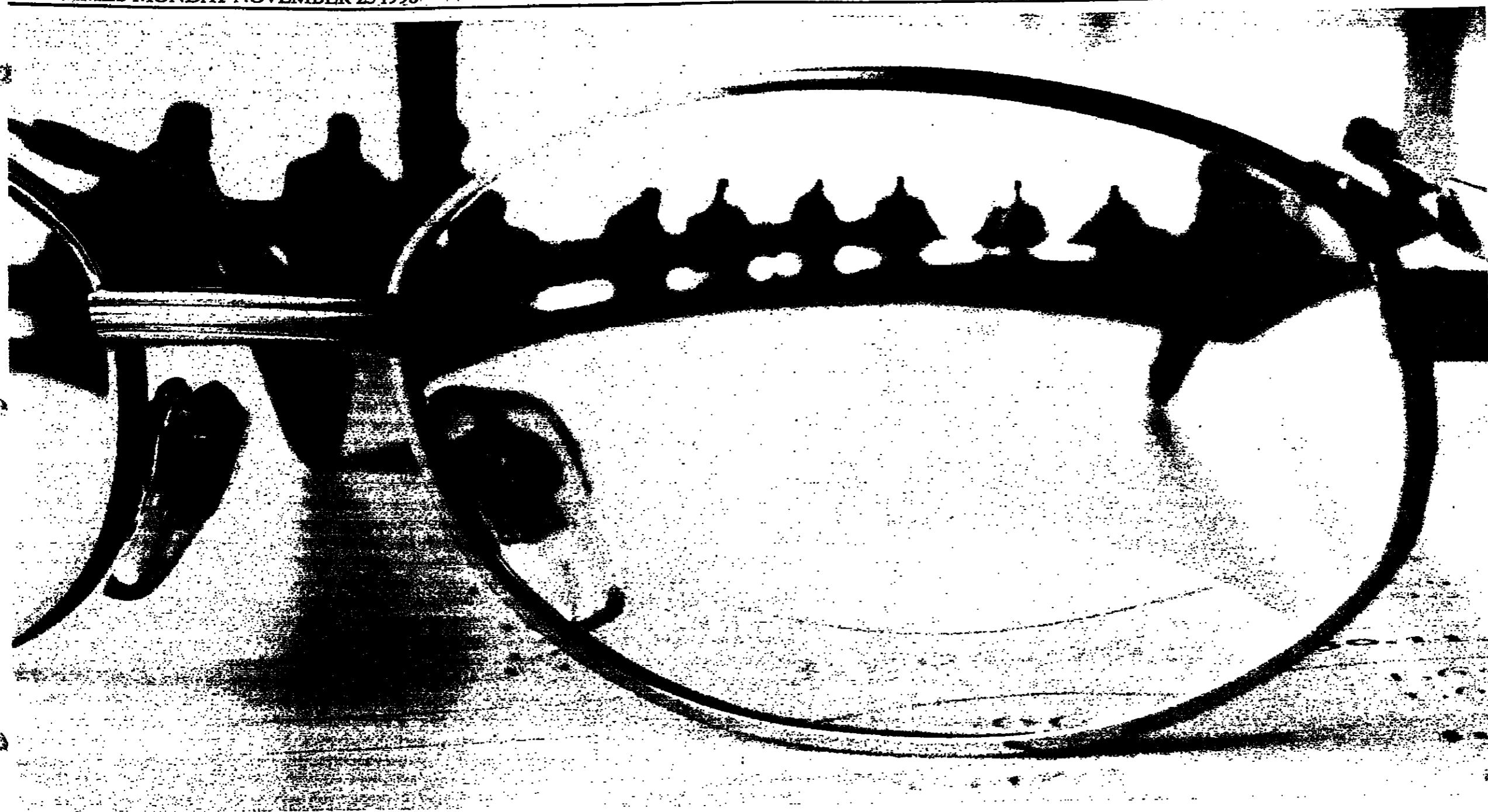
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Morris admits 'fatal flaw'

Love of power was my downfall, says White House aide

FROM IAN BROOK IN WASHINGTON



Morris: we should read the Greek tragedies

DICK MORRIS, who was forced to resign as President Clinton's top political adviser after a year-long affair with a prostitute, has admitted being infatuated with power and feeling immune to the rules.

In his first extensive comments since the scandal rocked the Clinton campaign three months ago, Mr Morris said: "My sense of reality was just altered. I started out being excited working for the President. Then I became arrogant, then I became grandiose and then I became self-destructive."

Having advised Mr Clinton on and off for 18 years, Mr Morris was behind the President's successful election strategy of moving towards the centre and closer to Republican positions, dismaying liberal Democrats.

Mr Morris disclosed that two days after the election, Mr Clinton called to give his thanks in a "wonderful, warm chat". Did he still consider Mr Clinton a friend? "Yes I do," he said quietly.

The world of limousines, lavish expense and immeasurable influence at the pinnacle of power, all collapsed for Mr Morris when his pager went off in Chicago on the eve of the Democrats' convention. The *Star* tabloid was calling about his relationship with Sherry Rowlands, a prostitute he had entertained in his Washington hotel suite and had allowed to listen in on his private chats with Mr Clinton.

want to stay married to her, if she'll let me."

Speaking with remarkable candour, Mr Morris said it was too simple to say that he had been a victim of sexual addiction, as though he had an illness like pneumonia or mumps. Rather, he said, "I had ... and I hope to be getting over, a fundamental flaw in my character, a fundamental weakness in my personality, a fundamental sin. I'm prone to being infatuated with power and believing that the rules don't apply to me."

Mr Morris is convinced that his arrival at the White House, the culmination of his life's work, only hastened his downfall. Now 48, he said: "Everybody who turns 40 should read the Greek tragedies. They all have within them the same idea — the thing that may have helped you move up then destroys you. I'm a living example of that."

Mr Morris said he was not sure if he would work again as a political consultant. It would require straightening out his life and being accepted. Meanwhile, he will be cushioned by a contract worth \$2.5 million (£1.5 million) from Random House, the book publishers, for memoirs that are expected to provide best-selling insights into his work as Mr Clinton's campaign strategist.

The contract came to light after his resignation, but had been signed secretly five months earlier. Mike McCurry, the President's spokesman, expressed anger that Mr Morris had not disclosed the deal before.

The initiative for the Washington summit was launched

Jailed 'Dapper Don' Gotti ousted as Mafia Godfather

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK



Gotti: to be succeeded by Brooklyn-based "capo"

THE head of America's largest crime family is reported to have been ousted as Godfather after the Mafia's ruling commission decided he could no longer run the mob from his prison cell.

John "The Dapper Don" Gotti, the sharply dressed New York gangster who seized control of the American Mafia by murdering the previous Godfather in 1985, went to prison for life four years ago for murder and racketeering.

Although locked in his cell for 23 hours a day, Gotti continued to run his Gambino crime family by sending written messages through visitors and taking advantage of his

right to speak by telephone to his lawyers.

The *Daily News* in New York reported yesterday that the leaders of the other crime families — that make up the commission — the Genovese, Colombo, Bonanno and Luchese clans — had forced Gotti to turn over the reins to an underling. It said the next Mafia chieftain would be Nicholas "Little Nick" Corozzo, a Brooklyn-based "capo" in the Gambino family.

Mr Corozzo, 56, is said to specialise in bookmaking, loan-sharking and extortion in the ethnic Italian areas of Brooklyn. He has, however, never served a day in jail.

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Tensions rise over Golan settlers

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

TENSION in the Middle East grew yesterday as Syria rejected the proposal of a Washington peace summit with Israel and Damascus accused Benjamin Netanyahu's Government of pushing the region towards war by planning to move hundreds more Jews to the Golan Heights.

In the Gaza Strip hundreds of angry Palestinian motorists blocked the isolated Jewish settlement of Netzarim and in the West Bank, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation official gave a warning that the promised expansion of Jewish settlements would trigger new clashes between Arabs and Jews.

Last night, with tension mounting in Gaza, Frei Abu Meid, the Palestinian Justice Minister, said that if Israel refused to open the road that passes Netzarim to Palestinians it would "lead to problems similar to those of the opening of the tunnel". He was referring to the archaeological tunnel in Jerusalem near the Temple Mount, the opening of which sparked violence in which 75 people were killed and 1,500 wounded.

In Cairo, Amr Moussa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, condemned Israel's expanding settlement activity, after a similar attack issued by Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan. Mr Moussa said the settlement moves posed "extremely dangerous and serious intentions on the true intentions of the current Israeli Government".

The initiative for the Washington summit was launched



An Israeli soldier and a Palestinian argue during a Gaza Strip protest yesterday

by Senator Arlen Specter, who visited Damascus and Jerusalem last week in an attempt to defuse the war jitters between the two capitals sparked by recent reciprocal troop movements and alerts on either side of Israel's northern border. Muhammad Saleh, the Syrian Minister of Information and a close confidante of President Assad, rejected the idea of an Assad-Netanyahu summit. He said that there was no point in such a

meeting, designed to restart peace talks, halted since March, if Israel insisted on holding on to the Golan, strategic territory it had conquered in 1967.

The latest broadside came after recent allegations from both countries that each was guilty of gearing up for a new war, with Egypt stating that it would not stand by if Syria was attacked.

Yesterday Israel tried unsuccessfully to defuse the crisis by denying that the

plans to build 900 new homes on the Golan had been given final approval. Details of the scheme were widely leaked in the Israeli media and confirmed by senior Israeli officials. The units are part of a plan to add 2,500 new homes for Jews on the volcanic plateau by 2000.

At present, there are 15,000 Jews living on the Golan. Yesterday it was reported that large numbers of Jews had inquired about buying new homes in the area.

Steroids offer hope in Ebola treatment

FROM IÑIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICAN doctors may have stumbled across a treatment for the deadly Ebola virus.

American scientists are to begin experiments, based on recent findings, after the Gabonese doctor who brought the virus to South Africa for the first time responded well to steroid treatment given to him by doctors who had failed to diagnose his illness.

Professor Guy Richards, of the Johannesburg General Hospital, said he had recently treated 15 to 20 patients suffering from viral chickenpox pneumonia with "magical results" and had given the same treatment to the Gabonese patient. Details about the patient's response have been passed to American researchers who say they will begin tests on primates soon.

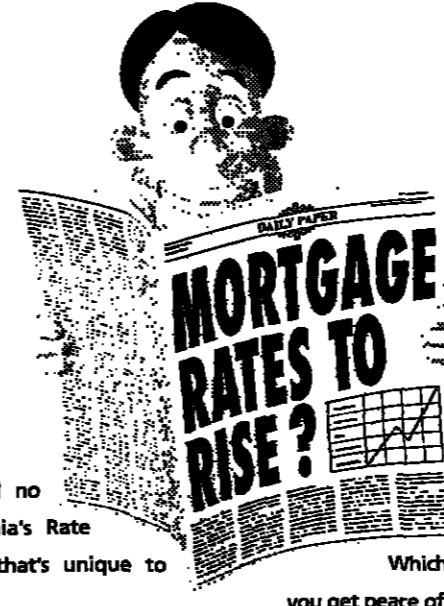
Without early treatment, Ebola, which killed 249 people in Zaire last year and 35 people in Gabon this year, has been recorded as fatal in 80 to 90 per cent of cases. There is no known cure for the virus which attacks virtually every organ, liquefying tissue into a mush.

South African medical authorities have been praised for their professionalism in handling the country's first Ebola cases. It was disclosed last weekend that Marilyn Lahana, a nurse, had contracted the virus while treating the Gabonese doctor.

The doctor, who arrived in South Africa for treatment suffering from what he believed was chronic gastritis, returned home last week, but the nurse remains critically ill on a life-support system after her lungs and kidneys collapsed.

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

“ Since the Dunblane tragedy the shooting community have been shockingly misrepresented. A totally false impression of our sport has been given. As a result a witch hunt has been launched against tens of thousands of honest, decent people. ”

Albie Fox, Chairman, the Sportsman's Association

The Sportsman's Association

of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

“ Sportsmen have been collectively indicted as accomplices to murder. Sensationalist reporting and intense single issue lobbying have perverted the democratic process. The Firearms Bill ignores the careful advice of Lord Cullen's Inquiry and may aggravate the problem of armed crime in Britain. ”

Mike Yardley, National Spokesman, the Sportsman's Association

WE ARE NOT GUILTY!

Sportsmen and women are being punished for the crimes of Thomas Hamilton.

The Government's new Firearms Bill offers up the shooting sports as a ritual sacrifice. The bill is most unlikely to affect conventional armed crime or prevent another Dunblane tragedy, but, it may:

Cause the loss of 2,000 jobs

Ignore the advice of Lord Cullen's Inquiry

Cost the tax payer more than £300 Million*

* Some estimates put the cost of the legislation at over £1Billion

Give the public a false sense of security

Confiscate private property on an unprecedented scale*

* Compensation being offered is inadequate

Do nothing to prevent criminals getting guns illegally*

* Most experts believe that there are far more illegally owned guns than legal ones

Policing failure at Dunblane

Lord Cullen noted in his report that there were critical weaknesses in the system used by Central Scotland Police for carrying out firearms related enquiries. He stated that Thomas Hamilton's right to be entrusted with a firearm was challenged by Detective Sergeant Hughes in November 1991 after the police investigation of a summer camp (but this officer's recommendations were not acted upon by senior colleagues). He also comments that Hamilton had behaved "inappropriately" in showing guns to a family in Linlithgow in 1989. Lord Cullen concluded that "on balance there was a case for revocation which should have been acted upon". Although existing legislation leaves much to be desired, had it been properly applied by Central Scotland Police, Thomas Hamilton would have been denied access to legal firearms.

Source: Page 2, paragraph 1.6, Report of the Public Inquiry into the Shootings at Dunblane Primary School on 13th March 1996.

THE FIREARMS BILL WILL NOT WORK BUT MAY COST THE EQUIVALENT OF 100 NEW SCHOOLS OR 2 HOSPITALS

The Government has revised its estimate for implementing the firearms bill from £25-50 million to £100 million. But, the published costings are still wildly wrong, not least, because they fail to mention the cost of putting 2,000 people on the dole. They only consider costs for the compensation of property loss at figures far below true market value.

The Sportsman's Association has engaged specialist accountants to estimate the real costs of the bill. Their task has been made harder by the inadequacy of available Government statistics. However, they have concluded that the likely cost of the legislation will be £450 million (nearly 1/2 p in the £1 on income tax) with a minimum cost of £300 million. These figures are made up of:

- £56,000,000 (140,000 firearms to be confiscated from approx. 45,000 individuals at an average cost of £400)
- £18,000,000 (ancillary equipment which will become worthless when the Firearms Bill becomes law)
- £30,000,000 (loss of dealer's stock)
- £150,000,000 (costs to the Treasury in dole and retraining of 2,000 specialist employees)
- £200,000,000 (loss of 1000 dealer's earnings @ average of £20,000 per annum for ten years)
- £2,400,000 (the bill for the 40 extra Government staff who will administer bill)
- **£456,400,000 TOTAL COST**

Even these calculations exclude the increased policing costs and the price of litigation against this mistaken legislation.

Don't take our word for it!

Some may say, that inconvenience to the shooting community, or slightly increased taxes for all are nothing as compared to the suffering of the parents and people of Dunblane. That is true. But, in a mature democracy there is only one good reason for legislation of the draconian type proposed - a true public benefit. The Firearms Bill as presented is theatre. It will not work. It scapegoats the innocent and may aggravate the problem of armed crime. It is the product of media-led politics at its hysterical worst. More people are now realising this.

"Emotionalism took over from what should have been the real argument about the effective control of guns and of preventing people like Thomas Hamilton getting hold of them. Shamefully, it led to a

bidding war between the main parties." Editorial, *The Daily Telegraph*, 20th November, 1996.

"...in the current mood of hysteria, the Government chose to go well beyond Cullen's recommendations... Yet, as Lord Cullen recognised, if never law had been sensibly implemented, Thomas Hamilton would never have been allowed to possess his guns." Editorial, *The Evening Standard*, 19th November, 1996.

"For good or ill, the Dunblane parents terrorised the Commons yesterday. That may sound harsh, but how else do you describe the sense of duresse hanging over the chamber?" Matthew Paris, *The Times* 19th November, 1996.

The Sportsman's Association

of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

No 1, Sentinel Works, Whitchurch Road, Shrewsbury, Salop. SY1 4DP
Telephone: 01743 - 46 - 1689
or Fax 01743 - 46 - 0062

JOIN US NOW!
If you are concerned about the Firearms Bill and other attacks on traditional sports, we need your help. As well as joining the Sportsman's Association we ask you to

WRITE AT ONCE TO YOUR MP.
The address is: House of Commons, London, SW1A 2PW.

I apply for membership of the Sportsman's Association of Great Britain and agree to abide by its Constitution & Rules. I wish to register my protest against the proposed legislation to restrict participation in shooting sports. I agree that the Association may keep my details on computer and that the Association may rely on the exemption from registering under the Data Protection Act.

I enclose my Membership Fee (minimum £5.00 Adults or £1.00 for junior members under 18) made payable to SAGB.

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TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

SPINNING WHEELS

Oliver Holt follows the RAC Rally
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THE ITALIAN JOB

Phil de Glanville makes a winning start as the England captain
PAGE 39

HEADING SOUTH

Atherton's England head for Zimbabwe
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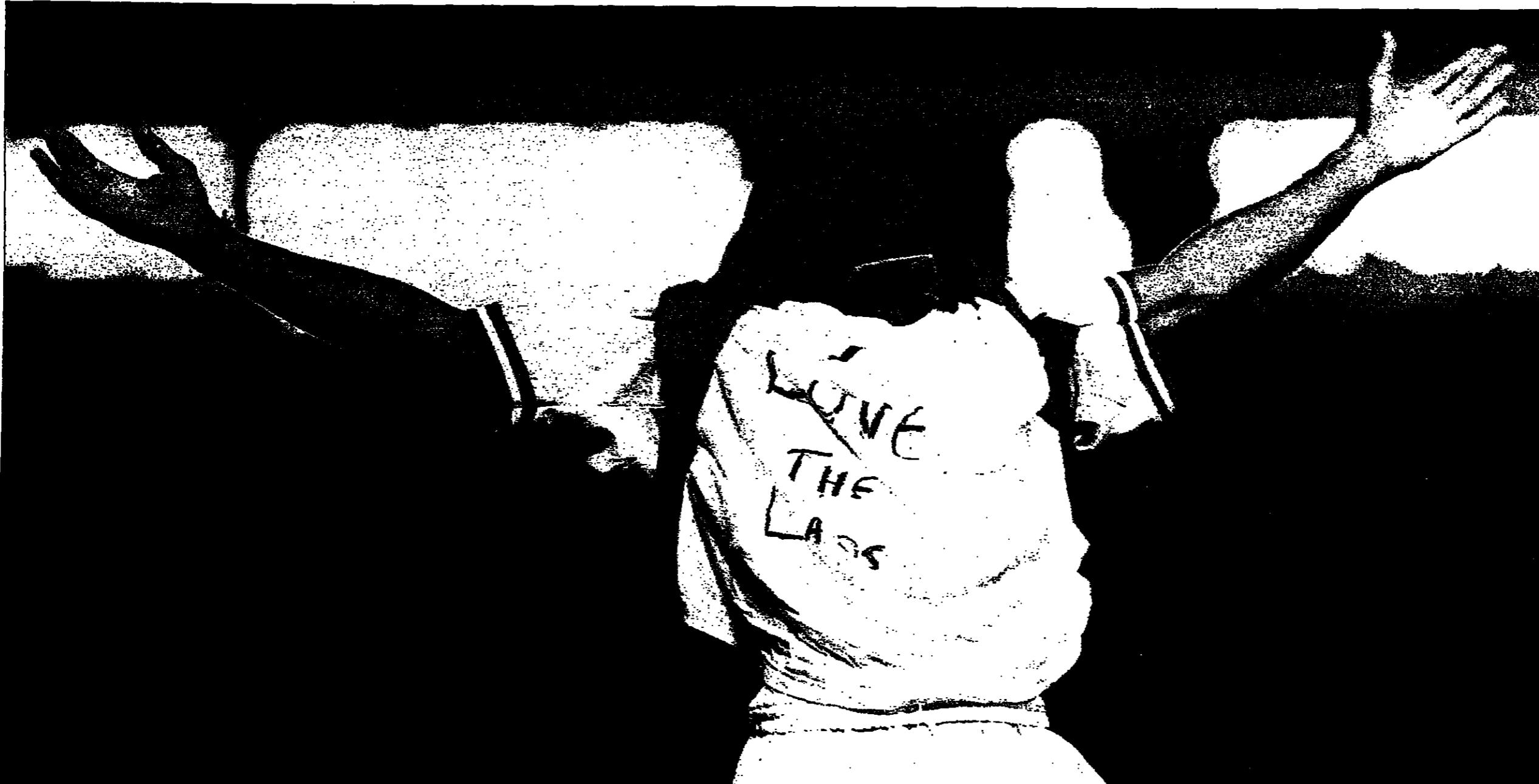
SPORT FOR ALL

Sally Jones goes downhill fast - on a snowboard
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY NOVEMBER 25 1996

WRIGHT ON TARGET AS ARSENAL LIGHT UP HIGHLIGHTS



Wright celebrates, Ravanelli-style, after his goal, revealing a tribute to the spirit in the Arsenal dressing-room which has survived a change of management and a series of personal problems among players

Bergkamp reigns while it pours

Arsenal 3
Tottenham Hotspur 1

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IN A heavy and relentless downpour at Highbury yesterday, and a match laced with heavy symbolism, Arsenal scored twice in the last two minutes to win the north London derby game against

minded to stay the pace, to defy that thing called age which like rust, seemed to seep into so many of their players so long ago. The first symbol, then, came before the kick-off as the names of the ageing Gunners were read out to a backing of pop music with the relentless refrain "18 til I die". The game itself had threatened to die early on. It was such a labyrinth of order, the two meanness defences in the land at present being augmented from midfield so that minute after minute went by without threat of a goal. This was football for the coaches: beauty is efficiency, Wenger had said on Friday. And with no space to be found, no invention to find any, it was as if two wet blankets of denial had been sent out to smother creativity. Even the floodlights partially gave out in the midst of this organised boredom.

It was to change with a penalty. From a throw-in on the right, Bergkamp, quite outstanding with his vision and use of the ball, began backtracking into Wilson. They tumbled to the turf, but David Elleray saw no foul. However as Bergkamp rose, Wilson quite palpably brought him back down to earth. Up sprang Ian Wright to take the spot kick.

How he loved breaking the deadlock. How he enjoyed sending Ian Walker the wrong way for his 160th goal for Arsenal. And how he celebrated. He lifted his shirt over his head Ravanelli-style to reveal a plain T-shirt on which he had hand-written "I love the lads".

What could it mean?

Wenger, the manager, did not know. "He's a celebration specialist," the manager said.

Eventually Wright explained: it was a calculated salute to the great team spirit, the lads who through so many seasons and recently through changing management, have clung together in the cause of Arsenal. When Wright ceased bearing his message and blowing his kisses, it was Bergkamp whose incision took the eye time and again. He seemed to be playing with a different frame of mind from the others

and, through his unselfishness, he offered Wright two more chances — scorned chances to claim a hat-trick and finish the affair.

"I knew Dennis before I came to Highbury," Wenger said. "He looks much sharper now. I think it is very important for him not to get injuries because for a player of his high talent, world-class talent, it can take three games to get back to his level. But he is 27,

and I have told him that at this age you become a huge player, or you go back in your career."

While Tottenham were running missed chances, opportunities that both Sheringham and Armstrong uncharacteristically put wide, the game was about to lose its discipline. Tottenham came out fired up, intent on injecting pace and seemingly rather wild aggression. It culminated in a stand-up fight between Armstrong

and Vieira for which both must thank the leniency of the Highbury schoolmaster. Elleray, that the only colour they were shown was yellow. Three minutes after that, the concentration still awry, Sinton broke into the Arsenal box and shot past Lukic. The big goalkeeper, deputising for Seaman, had no luck: the ball hit his right-hand post and before Lukic could turn, it struck him on the back of the shoulder, rebounding for the equalising goal.

Still the fire burned in the

downpour. Vieira could so easily have been sent off for a reckless foul on Nielsen. Instead a long and stern lecture seemed to dampen down the lunacy. And after Armstrong once more had lifted a chance over the bar, the sheer perseverance of Arsenal brought its double sting. In the 88th minute, from a Dixon throw-in on the right, Bergkamp intelligently flicked the ball back and there, marauding into attack, Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain, produced an angled, lusty left-foot shot that entered the net off the shoulder of Carr.

Tottenham's anguish was doubled within seconds. Wright toyed with Wilson at the right corner flag. He turned him this way and that

Newcastle learn 32
Pressure on Evans 33
Steve McManaman 33
Joy for Gascoigne 34
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won against Tottenham. I like this derby feeling."

Off stage, Tony Adams was being awarded the champagne for man of the match. Another symbol, an inappropriate one, for the Arsenal captain was high enough on adrenalin and is, of course, one of this country's most public recovering alcoholics.

ARSENAL (4-1-2-1): J Lukic — M Keown, A Adams, S Bould — L Dixon, P Vieira, D Plant (sub: M Herd, Genni, N Wimberley) — P Merson, P Bergkamp (sub: R Parot, 90) (Wright)

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker, S Carr, C Cadogan, S Campbell (sub: D. Johnson, A. Suttor) — C Armstrong, E Sheringham (sub: D. Elford)



Wright slots home coolly from the spot at Highbury yesterday drawing first blood in the derby with Tottenham



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Rally coverage slips and stalls in top gear

By yesterday afternoon, it was clear why BBC2's *Top Gear Rally Report* had cast its net quite so wide at the start of the Network Q RAC Rally. As I watched the curtain-raiser on Friday evening, I lost count of the names they thought might be there or thereabouts — ten, 20, 30... the list of unfamiliar names and unknown faces went on and on, occasionally interrupted by a Vatanen. Kankkunen or McRae. Martin Brundle got a mention after 25 minutes. I let out a little cheer.

So, now you know that I do not know much about rallying, but, with two thirds of its coverage out of the way, we also know that the BBC was not of a mind to do very much about my or anybody's else ignorance. Sure, it had brought in John Leslie, the former *Blue Peter* presenter.



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

but that was as far as it was prepared to go. Thereafter, it was *Top Gear Rally Report* as normal — lots of cars sliding round the same corner and the same microphone being shoved through the driver's window of lots of cars. "So, Juha! Jarmo! Stig! Ari! a bit slippery out there today." For sure, Tony, for sure.

By yesterday afternoon, however, the scatter-gun approach was beginning to look a little bit more sensible. Juha Kankkunen, Jarmo Kyteleho and Ari Vatanen were all out of it, along with Ian Duncan, Gwynnaf Evans and Robbie Head. Back in the mobile control unit, a worried looking BBC producer was busy crossing off names. He had mentioned Armin Schwarz, he had remembered Stig Blomqvist, hadn't he? Ken Pollock could relax. With one more day of ice

and snow to go, he was still covered.

The spectacular refinements of Evans and Head during the Chatsworth stage showed exactly why rallying remains so tantalising a television sport. On Saturday, even with the help of the now ubiquitous on-board cameras, the BBC cameras somehow managed to miss every incident of note. Kankkunen's and Kyteleho's date with the same ditch, Vatanen's brush with a mystery Range Rover, Brundle's spin and Louis Aitken-Walk-

er's gallant rescue of the Formula One star — we missed them all.

On a day when stages such as Pundershaw are 36 miles long, such misses are inevitable and understandable. On Saturday, even with the help of the now ubiquitous on-board cameras, the BBC cameras somehow managed to miss every incident of note. Kankkunen's and Kyteleho's date with the same ditch, Vatanen's brush with a mystery Range Rover, Brundle's spin and Louis Aitken-Walk-

er's gallant rescue of the Formula One star — we missed them all.

That said, if it wasn't a BBC camera that captured the action, full marks to Pollock and team for getting hold of the footage from somebody who had. As Richard Burns, the former British champion and Leslie's studio guest, bluntly put it: "That's why rallying is exciting, that's why spectators come and watch it."

That's why, for all least one stage of the rally, it would surely be a good idea if organisers and broadcaster came together to plan a stage that was specifically planned with television viewers in mind. A water splash may look great if you are standing 20 yards away, but from the warmth and comfort of the sofa it resembles little more than a large puddle.

Bringing in Leslie as an

amateur video of missing the multiple rolls of first Evans and then Head.

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amateur video of missing the multiple rolls of first Evans and then Head.

SPORTS IN PICTURES

Giants in free fall need luck to turn

A DRAMATIC three-pointer, scored right on the final buzzer by Nate Reinking, of Leicester, on Saturday left Manchester Giants contemplating the possibility of a barren second half to the English basketball season (Nicholas Harding writes). Reinking's shot, that gave Leicester victory by 73-72, will put the Giants out of the 7-Up Trophy, unless unlikely results elsewhere conspire in their favour. For a squad that was widely tipped for honours before the season, but is already out of the Classic Cola National Cup and seemingly out of contention for the Budweiser League, prospects look bleak.

Not at least Whelton, their coach, would agree. "We're going through a bad patch, that's all," he said. "Every team in the league is going to have a bad patch and thank goodness we're having ours now. Sure it's disappointing, but we're by no means finished. We've enough talent here to turn things round." Luck, as Whelton knows only too well, rarely favours the needy. Leading by nine points and within sight of their first win in four games, the Giants then missed three times from six free throws.

Pakistan fall short

CRICKET: New Zealand completed a convincing 44-run victory over Pakistan in the first Test in Lahore yesterday, dismissing the home side for 231 shortly after tea on the fourth day. It was their first win on Pakistani soil since the 1968-69 tour. For Pakistan, chasing a victory target of 276, Mohammad Wasim made an unbeaten 109 to become the fourth Pakistani to hit a century in his maiden Test, but it was to no avail.

Scoreboard, page 40

Obree workshop injury

CYCLING: Graeme Obree, of Scotland, the former world pursuit champion and record-holder, is recovering in Irvine after injuring both legs in a workshop accident. Obree was hurt when a cast iron gas cylinder fell on him as he prepared to make a pair of forks. "The cylinder valve was difficult to adjust and I lost my footing," he said. "The container came down on me just above the knee on both my legs." No bones were broken, but Obree suffered severe tissue damage.

Els homes in on victory

GOLF: Ernie Els, right, and Wayne Westner, of South Africa, won the World Cup by a record 18 shots in front of their own supporters at Somerset West, near Cape Town, yesterday. Els closed with a 67 to finish 16 under-par and took the international trophy for the leading individual. Westner, finished three strokes behind in second place, after a round of 70.



Goode misses out

BADMINTON: Joanne Goode reached two finals but was beaten in both as England failed to capture any titles at the Scottish Open championships in Glasgow yesterday. Goode and Nick Ponting lost to the new Swedish partnership of Jes Olsson and Astrid Crabo in the mixed doubles and, in partnership with an unwell Gillian Gowers, she lost again in the women's doubles final to Qian Hong and Liu Lu, of China.

Davies stays in touch

GOLF: Karrie Webb, of Australia, compiled a four-under-par 68 to share the lead in the LPGA Tour Championship in Las Vegas with Emilee Klein. Webb and Klein, of the United States, were level at nine under par after three rounds over the Desert Inn course, with Laura Davies, of Great Britain, the Tour's leading money-winner, tied for third place, three shots behind, on 210 after a round of 71 which included three bogeys, two birdies and one eagle.

Searle proves champion

ROWING: Greg Searle, the world record-holder, brought eight hours of competition to a noisy climax by taking the British indoor rowing championship title at Reading yesterday. Many of the 900 competitors remained to watch a final with international and Boat Race overtones, where Searle was pushed closest by Tim Foster, his Atlanta bronze medal crew-mate, who is now racing under Oxford colours.

Honeychurch strikes

TENPIN BOWLING: Cara Honeychurch, of Australia, won the Pepsi World Cup women's singles championship in Belfast on Saturday, overcoming Shalim Zulkifli in the final. Zulkifli, 18, of Malaysia, had dominated the competition until the last day, but Honeychurch ran into form at the right time. Paeng Nepomuceno, 39, from the Philippines, won the men's title for a record fourth time, beating Drew Hylen, of the United States, 243-172 in a one-sided final.

Devils taste defeat

ICE HOCKEY: Cardiff Devils, having previously dropped only one point in nine games, were unexpectedly beaten at home by Newcastle Cobras, for whom Petri Rautainen had four assists in their 5-3 win. Basingstoke Bison brought an end to their run of five defeats, beating Manchester Storm 6-4. They led 6-1 early in the second period, before Storm fought back. Nottingham Panthers continue to find home wins elusive, and were beaten 3-2 by Ayr Scottish Eagles.

BRIDGE: HIGH-QUALITY FIELD RETAINS HOMELY ATMOSPHERE AT CLANDON PARK

Sandqvist reaps benefit of bold move

By ROBERT WRIGHT

THE destination of £21,000 in prize-money, a record for a British bridge tournament, was decided over the weekend, when the finale of *The Times* Midland Private Bank National Bridge Challenge was completed.

Set in the magnificent Marble Hall at Clandon Park, a National Trust property near Guildford, Surrey, the 16 finalists in the four categories — expert, men's, women's and mixed — enjoyed two days' competition seemingly oblivious to the foul weather outside.

One of the primary aims of the Challenge was to attract a high-quality field with several international players. However, victory — and the £5,000 winners' cheque — went to Nicholas

Sandqvist and John Short, neither of whom has yet represented his country. Nonetheless, Sandqvist came to Great Britain from Sweden 18 months ago to play professionally. Now based in Hammersmith, he plays most of his bridge at TGCR, a bridge club in Marble Arch.

While clearly pleased, Short, his partner, was rather more animated. "I just delighted I didn't let Nick down," he said. "We've been playing together for about six months — he is top class and just keeps carrying me through."

It was a treat to play in such wonderful surroundings as we have had this weekend. Most tournaments are played in smoky clubs, but this has been fantastic. The atmosphere among the players has been unusually friendly."

The men's division was won by Tom Gunn and Robert Hogan. Gunn, head chef at the popular Ed's Diner on the King's Road, plays most of his bridge at the Young Chelsea Club. He said, rather tongue in cheek: "I'm just a social player. This is one of my hobbies." The women's winners were Norris Buxton and Kate Manners, who play three times a week at Roehampton.

The winner who most epitomised the spirit of the tournament was Paula Alderson who, with Mike Baynes, triumphed in the mixed event. She said: "I've only been playing for three years. I work very hard at it playing twice a week with my partner, but I still have lessons."

You're test driving the new Audi A3. Do you:

- a) find a narrow ravine with a broken bridge, slam into second and leap the gap shouting 'Geronimo'?
- b) roar past a wall of fire at the side of the road to an eighties soundtrack?
- c) just go for a drive?

If your answer is (c) please call 0345 699777 for more information.



section of the players at the final, that was achieved in spades.

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tracted a high-quality field

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MOTOR RALLYING

Evans leads exodus as ice claims top drivers

By OLIVER HOLT

THE tradition in recent years has been to route the Network Q RAC Rally through picture-postcard parts of the country such as Chatsworth and Tatton Park on Sundays. The idea is that it gives casual spectators a glimpse of the stars of the sport. This year, the organisers reckoned without Saturday. By yesterday, there were no stars left.

It was the ice that did it more than the snow, the mud or the driving rain. At times, it reduced drivers who usually career through the forests, sowing their cars from side to side at high speed like carefree cavaliers, to men and women who looked like nervous learners trying to crawl their way through their first lesson.

When the cars returned to Chester in the dark of early evening yesterday, the rally was led, as it had been from the start, by Armin Schwarz, a journeyman driver in a Toyota Celica, who was expected to play second fiddle to his teammate, Jutta Kankkunen.

Schwarz led by more than five minutes from Masaaki Kamioka of Japan, after 17 of the rally's 27 stages. Stig Blomqvist, a 50-year-old former world champion who won this event 25 years ago, took advantage of his Skoda's lack of power on treacherous surfaces where extra horsepower is a disadvantage, to consolidate his third place.

The dominant image of yesterday's competition, though, was the pale face of

Gwynnaf Evans, who had been the leading British survivor at the end of the first day, peering through the broken windscreen of his shattered Ford Escort as he tried to drive the stricken car the few miles to the end of the end of the Chatsworth stage.

He had skidded on ice exiting a corner, clipped a tree stump at about 60mph and then braced himself as his car somersaulted through the air, rolled twice and came to rest in the trees. The Escort's roll cage was bent and Evans, who complained of back and neck pains, spent last night under observation in hospital in Chesterfield.

"There was not enough room for us to get out because of our helmets," said Howard Davies, Evans's co-driver. "The roof had caved in a bit and, when the marshals tried to pull us out, we were stuck. In the end, we had to get our helmets off before we could get out. I did question whether the rally should go ahead for safety reasons. I thought that with the problems we were having, it would take an ambulance an awful long time to reach someone."

Evans, though, was the last in a parade of big names to fall foul of the conditions. An event already robbed of Colin McRae, Carlos Sainz and Tommi Makinen, the new world champion, because it is not part of this season's world championship, quickly lost

what was left of its leading



Evans and Davies momentarily hold up a coat to stop water entering their damaged Ford Escort during the RAC Rally yesterday

attractions. Ari Vatanen, a former world champion, was the first to go, smashing into a rock on the first stage in the Kielder Forest on Saturday morning and flipping out of on three wheels. On his way to the second stage, with his co-driver, Mike Calvin, riding in the boot to help the car some balance, he came upon a Range Rover heading towards him in the middle of the road and slid into a ditch to avoid it. There was no way back.

Kankkunen, the four-times

favourite, did not last much longer. He slid off on the third stage in Hyndlee and damaged his engine. Jarmo Kytolehto, another highly-rated Finn, came off at the same corner and got bogged down in deep snow. Alister McRae, the younger brother of last year's world champion, was another early casualty.

The farce continued uninterrupted yesterday. Some competitors were forced to slow almost to a halt as they slid inexorably from the gravel tracks on patches of ice. Often,

as they inched their way back on, they were caught by the following car, a rare sight in a sport that is supposed to pit competitors against the clock, not each other.

So a rally already condemned to the status of a sideshow gradually took on a surreal air. Soon after Evans had crashed, Robbie Head, driving a Maad Megane, rolled his car five times after hitting the same tree and, although he was unhurt, his car was beyond repair. Many of the competitors' support

vehicles got stuck in snowdrifts as they tried to return over the Pennines from Chatsworth.

Martin Brundle, the Formula One driver guesting in another Escort, at least improved his position from ninth at the start of the day to 73rd after abandoning the understandable caution that restricted him on Saturday. The omens for today, though, are not good. The first stage, at Dymant in Mid Wales, has been cancelled because it is snowbound.

RALLY DETAILS

SECOND DAY leading positions: 1. S Hill (GB, Toyota) 2hr 16min 51sec; 2. M Kamioka (Japan, Subaru) at 4min 22sec; 3. S Blomqvist (Swe, Skoda) at 10:36; 4. H Haro (Spain, Ford) at 12:12; 5. A Evans (GB, Ford) at 12:42; 6. P Sibea (Cz, Skoda) at 13:58

SECOND DAY leading positions: 1. S Hill (GB, Toyota) 2hr 16min 51sec; 2. M Kamioka (Japan, Subaru) at 4:36; 3. S Blomqvist (Swe, Skoda) at 12:01; 4. Sibea at 16:48; 5. Holzer (Austria) at 17:22; 6. G de Meaux (Bel, Renault) at 18:57; 7. Esson (GB, Ford) at 19:28; 8. A Evans at 23:08; 9. G Cox (GB, Vauxhall) at 24:32

RESULTS 40

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He added, however: "It has come down to the people who are the best cross country runners at the moment." So we must assume that Barden and Caddy have been included.

The British women's team will be missing Paula Radcliffe, whose return to racing after injury has been pencilled in for Durham on December 28, and Liz Talbot, the team's highest finisher last year, who is attending a wedding.

HOCKEY

Early goals leave Reading in doldrums

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ELEVEN of the 17 matches scheduled for yesterday in the National League were postponed because of bad weather, play being permissible in only two of the six premier division games.

Persistent rain did not prevent play at Reading, but Reading did not stand up well to Old Loughtonians, who won 3-1. It was an important win for Loughtonians, who took a 3-0 lead with goals by Lee Thompson and Robinson in the first half.

With Mark Hoskin still absent on study leave, Reading lost some of their sharpness and their only response was a goal by Ashdown two minutes into the second half.

Daniel Laslett scored four goals from open play for Canterbury in the 6-1 defeat of Barford Tigers. By half-time, the score was 3-0. Hacker having added to two early goals by Laslett.

Barford Tigers could not contain the fast-moving Canterbury side, for whom Laslett added two more goals. Dugan scored late in the second half for Barford.

Gloucester City gained valuable ground in the first division with a 4-3 victory over Brooklands. Gloucester established a 3-1 lead by half-time with goals by Stokes, Boydell and Tredgett. Maguire replied for Brooklands.

Gloucester increased their lead to 4-1 with a goal by Clive from a short corner, but Brooklands hit back strongly with two short corners in quick succession to reduce the lead to 4-3. Four Gloucester City players were under temporary suspension at various times in the last 17 minutes.

Bromley defeated Harlesden Magpies 3-2 for their second win in nine matches. Graham Jones, Henderson and Haines, from a short corner, scored for Bromley, who led 3-1 until Gill converted a short corner for Harlesden Magpies, whose earlier goal was obtained by Thomas.

The match between Firebrands and City of Portsmouth was moved to Clifton College as the Firebrands pitch was waterlogged.

City of Portsmouth won 2-1 with goals by Boswell and Boyce. Benton replied for Firebrands.

Sharland provides lesson in finishing

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

IT TOOK Mike Sharland just 43 seconds to open Leicester's account at Doncaster and lay the foundations for her team's first victory of the season as they won 2-0. Sharland, an A level student from Hinckley, added a second in the seventeenth minute, but, although earning three priceless points, it was not enough to help Leicester to move off the bottom of the table. It was, though, an important psychological victory.

"It was more than just a good win," Kevin Blanks, the manager, said, "because we not only completely and utterly dominated the game, we didn't concede a goal. We met the league leaders, Slough, on Saturday and keeping a clean sheet has shown the players what they are capable of."

Purdey Miller, the England under-21 forward, set up both goals for Sharland and, in the opinion of Blanks, should have scored a couple herself. "It goes like that, though, and on another day she'll put them away," Blanks said, "but she did have a superb match."

At Slough, the home team and pre-season favourites beat the champions when they scored three second-half goals to overcome Highampton 3-1. Tina Cullen capitalised on a defensive error to shoot Highampton ahead in the 32nd minute and it took three goals in eight minutes, including a brace by Mandy Nicholls, the Olympian to steer Slough home.

So Chandler, the Slough captain, is adamant that there are still several sides in contention for the title. None more so than the Ipswich, the cup holders, who remain level on points with their rivals but second on goal difference after a 3-0 home win against Trojans, the newcomers.

Sandie Lister, the former England and Great Britain captain, converted a second-minute penalty stroke with Vicki Dixon. Lister's former international partner, Sarah Bamford, to score two second-half goals.

At the top of the first division, Oulton extended their 100 per cent record to seven matches with a 3-0 win at Sunderland, and Longborough Students maintained their unbeaten run at the head of the second division.

SNOOKER

Doherty extends his dominance of Davis

By PHIL YATES

ONLY an inspirational performance from Stephen Hendry prevented Ken Doherty from winning the 1994 United Kingdom championship. Two years on, Doherty now feels that he is fully equipped to capture the title.

Doherty, who constructed total clearances of 140 and 141 in his previous two outings, reached the quarter-finals with an efficient 9-5 victory over Steve Davis at Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

The bulk of the damage was done on Saturday as, by stealing two frames on the pink and another on the black, Doherty established a somewhat flattering 6-2 overnight lead. From that point, Davis was always kicking against the wind.

Doherty, the title-holder, became the first player through to the quarter-finals on Saturday when he beat Anthony Hamilton 9-1 in his most effective performance of the season so far.

wins since the Regal Welsh Open in January 1995. Even so, his appetite for competition remains undiminished. Davis won the opening frame of the final session and was leading 53-5 in the next when Doherty compiled a clinical 58 clearance to blue. That brought up 7-3 for Doherty, which swiftly became 8-3, thanks to a 67 break.

Doherty then displayed his stubborn streak. He easily accounted for the twelfth frame with a run of 81 and recovered from a 40-point deficit in the next to snatch it on the pink. Unfazed, Doherty compiled a 66 break in the fourteenth for his sixth victory over Davis in their past seven meetings.

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BALLROOM DANCING: NATION'S TRADITIONAL DOMINANCE UNDER THREAT

Britain invests in a golden future

By RUTH GLEDHILL

The simple reality is that the foreign competition has got better, with far greater support," Freddie Boulwood, chairman of the British Dance Council, the sport's governing body, said at an open forum to debate the problem at Blackpool on Saturday.

"We are faced with how best to capture the abundance of natural talent that is inherent in British dancers and how best to nurture it." While thousands of teenagers are learning to dance the ten modern and Latin dances used in ballroom dancing, few progress beyond medals and inter-school competitions to the open circuit. Although can be a factor, research has shown that sports such as golf, football, swimming and riding can be as expensive when a teenager shows exceptional talent or ability.

The concern is that although still possessing the world champions in Marcus and Karen Hilton, from Rochdale, Britain is about to lose its hold on this sport just at the point when the hoped-for full Olympic recognition is granted. "Some professionals do approach other people's pupils," she said.

Christopher Hawkins, who with his partner, Hazel Newberry, is Britain's top amateur, said: "We have to find ways of introducing more dancers to the business. We all want to see the production of more champions for this country." He called for more young dancers to be channelled through to the open circuit, and for a greater team spirit. "We need to travel together and support one another when going abroad."

Hawkins and Newberry, from London, went on to win the British closed amateur championship on Saturday night, defeating 60 other couples to be placed first in all five dances. Their performance, displaying supreme fitness and unity, established a wider gap between them and Britain's No 2 pairing, Alan and Donna Shingler, from Caterham, who had come close to beating them in an earlier battle in the Midlands.

Results 40

ATHLETICS

Far-flung results encourage Clarke

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

A ROAD relay in Japan may seem to have nothing in common with a cross country in Gateshead, but comparisons were inevitable on Saturday. The Ekiden relay, in Chiba, and the Saleway cross country, in Gateshead, were the last races by which Great Britain's selectors could gauge form before determining their squad for the European cross country championships in Charleroi, Belgium, on December 15.

British performances at both venues augur well for the prospects of the men improving on the European team bronze medals they won last winter. So well did so many athletes run that David Clarke, the team manager, had a fitful night's sleep on Saturday after the squad had been picked. He was worried not over whether the correct selections had been made, more for the feelings of those who had been omitted.

Clarke's sympathy for those who had been left out is born of his own experience two years ago, when he was overlooked despite insisting to the selectors that he was ready to run well.

"Everyone of these athletes is in good shape and those you leave out, you know you are putting their aspirations on hold for a few months, until the world championships," Clarke said. "I empathise with those poor devils."

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nounced until tomorrow, giving two days to check that those picked wish to accept. While the British women are not medal contenders, the men are potential champions. "We have the nucleus of a team to do better than third place," Clarke said. Andrew Pearson, third in the 1995 European Championships, won two short distance races at one afternoon in Gateshead, his first cross country outing this winter, to confirm his worth for selection.

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Results 40

Juninho and Ravanelli are isolated problems



Juninho: indefatigable

A rickety wooden wharf, gnarled by time and twisted by damp, cuts into the Tees where it meets the giant shadow of Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium. Nobody would notice it save for the fact that a giant red and white sign has been pinned on its rotting planks. "Unsafe", it says.

They do not like reminders of the past in this part of the city, where escape to the future has been promised them in the present through the big, exotic spending of their football club, but, somehow, the trappings of decay hang on. Recently, they have even been threatening to make a comeback.

If Gullit, Vialli, di Matteo, Zola and company have brought excitement and hope to Chelsea, then the recruitment of Juninho, Ravanelli

and Emerson seems to have created an undercurrent of fear in this part of the North East, based largely on a dread that they will reject their new surroundings and return the club to the way things used to be.

So, on Saturday afternoon, more than 90 minutes before their team took the field against Manchester United, the latest club mentioned in connection with Ravanelli, families of nervous supporters sat in the rubble car park next to the shipyard opposite the stadium and waited for Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, to be interviewed on the radio.

They heard him say again that Ravanelli was not for sale, that Juninho had made his recent pledge of allegiance to Middlesbrough of his own free will and that Emerson would be back in the team soon.

Oliver Holt on a lack of support for the imports in Middlesbrough's 2-2 draw with the champions

Then, reassured, they pulled on their warm clothes, fitted their Krooklaks and marched off past the wharf, over a little bridge and into their new arena.

Unfortunately, though, their fears are well founded. Their team would be nothing if it was not for their expensive imports. Middlesbrough are like Juninho's Brazilian homeland, fronted by a tiny, mega-rich elite, devoid of a middle class, dominated by an overwhelming majority of the disadvantaged. Robson, in his headlong pursuit of Premiership domination, has neglected to build the foundations for his tower block.

They did not play badly against the United side that gave full league debuts to O'Kane, Thornley and Clegg because of injuries to Giggs, Irwin and the Neville brothers. They showed spirit and determination in twice coming from a goal behind to earn their draw, but almost everything of worth came from one axis, the Juninho-Ravanelli supply line.

It was the Brazilian's pass and the Italian's darting run and precise finish that brought them their first equaliser, midway through the first half, after United had sliced open their defence with a deep cross from Cantona, a volleyed lay-off from

Beckham and a brilliantly controlled header from Keanie nine minutes earlier.

A minute before half-time, it was Juninho who lofted a delicate pass over United's flat-footed defence to Ravanelli, who wasted his second good opportunity of the game by shooting as soon as the ball dropped rather than advancing towards Schmeichel.

Ravanelli, the former Juventus striker, limped off in the 76th minute seemed lost. Beck Ravanelli's Danish strike partner, had been anonymous; only Moore, in midfield, and Fleming, the left back, had given Ravanelli and Juninho any semblance of support.

Juninho, though, kept pressing and his promptings earned Middlesbrough a free kick that Scholz beat down with his arms. Hignett, once a United reserve, drove the penalty into the roof of the net to earn his team a draw with nine minutes to go.

That still left Middlesbrough with a record of only three wins in the past 14 games. The supporters are already wondering how many green shoots will be left when the winds from the North Sea become less icy and the bleak winter gives way to spring.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-3-2): G. Walker — N. Cox, S. Vickery, D. Whyte, C. Fleming — C. Hogen, R. Moore, D. Moore, J. O'Kane (sub: B. Stengel), M. Beck. **MANCHESTER UNITED** (4-4-2): P. Schmeichel — M. Clegg, R. Johnson, D. May, J. O'Farrell (sub: B. Moore), B. Irwin, D. Beckham, R. Keane, N. Butt, B. Thornley (sub: J. Clayton, 72) — P. Scholes, E. Cantona. **Referee:** A. Wilcock

Pressure on Evans to take tough decisions

Liverpool 1
Wimbledon 1

BY DAVID MADDOCK

ROY EVANS, the Liverpool manager, will have plenty to mull over at breakfast this morning. In his ears, there is likely to be an unfamiliar noise, a distinctly uncomfortable sensation. It will be the echo of boos that coursed around Anfield at the final whistle on Saturday.

For possibly the first time in his managerial career, Evans bore the brunt of the supporters' ire. Against Wimbledon, the Kop, famous for its wit and generosity, ignored the admiring visitors to turn instead on their own. Evans must be wondering why, and why now?

The answer is expectation. For the first time since he succeeded Graeme Souness, it is expected — nay demanded — that Evans produces a trophy this season; and not any old trophy, but the champion-

decisions. Stan Collymore is one, the midfield another. Collymore scored a good goal within the first minute, capitalising on a mistake by Blackwell in the centre circle to race away and sidefoot calmly past Sullivan. Much of his play thereafter, though, was selfish. Too often, he took the glory route when a simple pass was more appropriate.

Worse, Collymore does not work hard when he does not have the ball. Thus, he is frequently left standing idle in the space that Robbie Fowler usually exploits. The result? A largely ineffective Collymore and a totally ineffective Fowler. Surely, the time has come for Evans to bite the bullet, admit that he made a mistake and ship out a player who has contributed nothing to team spirit.

As for the midfield, it was obvious when Patrik Berger emerged as a second-half substitute that he should have started the match, but that would have meant dropping Redknapp or Barnes, who prefer the same holding role. One has to go, and it is an awful decision to make, but that is what managers are for.

Liverpool still carved out chances. Blackwell flicked a first-half effort by Collymore off the line and Collymore shooting from an acute angle when Fowler was well-placed. McColgan panicked when he had imaginatively carved out a chance, and Barnes twice shot tamely in good positions.

Wimbledon are no mugs, either. They always seemed capable of clawing their way back, and did so after 67 minutes. It was a well-worked goal, too. Ardley sent Gayle racing down the right, and when James rashly deserted his line in pursuit, it was the easiest of tasks for the forward to cut a pass inside for Leontien to find the unguarded net.

Wimbledon are fourth, and have three home games before Christmas that could yet allow them to enter the new year in the top three. An illusion? "We have always finished the season stronger than we started, and if we do that this time, then Europe is not impossible," Kinnear said. "We all have our dreams, you know, even Wimbledon; and Europe is not a bad dream."

LIVERPOOL (5-3-2): D. James — J. McColgan, M. Wright, N. Ruddock, D. McColgan (sub: P. Barnes), J. Gayle, N. Ardley, M. Blackwell, P. Berger, 63 — S. Collymore, R. Fowler. **WIMBLEDON** (4-4-2): N. Sullivan, K. Cunningham, P. Ardley, D. Blackwell, A. Kinnear, J. Gayle, M. Leontien (sub: P. Fair, 74), R. Erie, O. Leontien (sub: E. Bokou, 64). **Referee:** P. Dawson

Full results and league tables : Page 35

ionship. Liverpool should have progressed smoothly to the top of the FA Carling Premiership. They scored after 33 seconds, dominated the rhythm of the game in the first half and — not surprisingly after such an opening — had enough chances to have cantered to victory.

The reason that they did not probably lies as much with Evans as with Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager. Kinnear has instilled in his compact side a pack ethos, a feeling of hunting together, but he has also produced a spirit of adventure and it is working wonderfully, as 15 matches unbeaten will testify. They deserved their point, possibly more.

Evans has fostered no such spirit. He has a talented squad and he is a nice guy, but nice guys come last in management, and it may be time for him to become more prickly if Liverpool are to win the title.

A member of the Anfield backroom staff for 25 years, Evans decided on the gentle approach as an antidote to the abrasive regime of Souness. It worked to an extent, but is there enough respect for the manager now the pressure is on? It may be an illusion, but it seems that Evans is staying away from making things worse.

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Collymore escapes the Wimbledon defence to get in a shot at Anfield, where his goal did not excuse him from criticism

Facing the footballer's nightmare

Injury is a player's greatest fear. During every game, every training session, players run the risk of picking up an injury that could end their careers, and yet there is absolutely nothing we can do to legislate against them.

It is the luck of the draw, because an injury can happen at any moment. I remember vividly the pictures of Steve Stone lying in a crumpled heap on the floor with a horrific injury that he picked up literally just running backwards for the ball.

Of course, the best thing to do is not to dwell on it, because it would drive you mad. Think about it — one tackle and you're finished, just as the unfortunate David Bussell found out. It can be an unkempt problem.

If you didn't already realise, I have plenty of time to write this column this week because I am suffering from an injury.

I am a great watcher anyway, and when we could not get that second goal to kill them off, it was really painful.

Wimbledon are fourth, and have three home games before Christmas that could yet allow them to enter the new year in the top three. An illusion? "We have always finished the season stronger than we started, and if we do that this time, then Europe is not impossible," Kinnear said. "We all have our dreams, you know, even Wimbledon; and Europe is not a bad dream."

There is a myth that says a footballer wants his side to lose when he is injured. Wrong. He wants them to win 1-0 and play badly. We had the chances, we could have made the game safe, but

STEVE McMANAMAN



feels the frustration of coping with injury

against Wimbledon, because the result did not go our way. I am not a great watcher anyway, and when we could not get that second goal to kill them off, it was really painful.

When you are up there in the stand, there are things you can identify more easily than you can down on the pitch. All the urges are there — to shout, wave, whatever, just to help — but it doesn't matter because there is absolutely nothing we can do to legislate against them.

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Simon Wilde calls for positive leadership as tour party leaves for Zimbabwe and New Zealand

Atherton must give England right directions

It is a reflection of the changes in status of the world's cricketing nations that England embark this evening on a full tour of two countries that were once no more than ports of call on far greater missions. They still expect to win, but their record overseas in recent years is so poor that it would be rash to discount failure.

England will fulfil five international fixtures in Zimbabwe — which, as Rhodesia, simply formed one of nine provincial opponents when they last played there during a tour of South Africa in 1964-65 — and eight in New Zealand, which for generations provided them with the opportunity to gild their averages on the way home from a hard-fought series in Australia.

Hospitality was then a key element to both visits, as it will be now, but the tour manage-

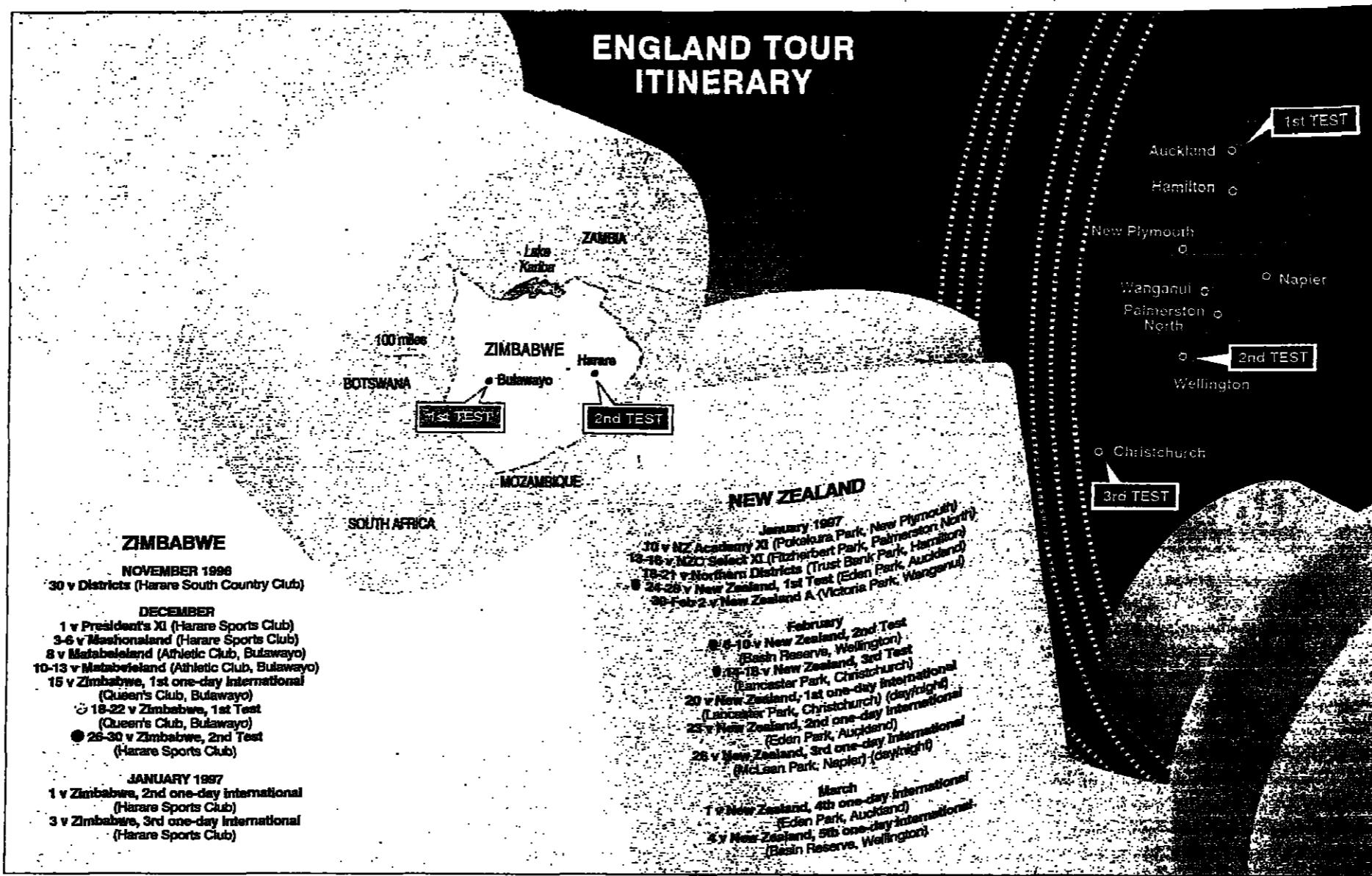
SQUAD

M A Atherton (Lancashire captain), N Hussain (Essex, vice-captain), A J Stewart (Surrey), G P Thorpe (Surrey), J P Crawley (Surrey), N V Knight (Worcestershire), R C Irani (Essex), C G Cope (Glamorgan), R D B Croft (Glamorgan), D Gough (Yorkshire), A R Caddick (Somerset), C E W Higgs (Somerset), J R T Banton (Somerset), A D Mullally (Leicester), D G Cork (Derbyshire), J R T Banton (Somerset), D Lloyd (Physiotherapist), W P Morris (Scorer), M N Ashton (Scorer)

ment is already warning of the dangers of its players becoming too cosy with the opposition, and Michael Atherton, the captain, and David Lloyd, the coach, are right to be cautious.

The Test pitches in each country can be frustrating for bowlers, which may be enough to satisfy Zimbabwe's hopes of avoiding defeat, while New Zealand are rebuilding their side with success and defeated Pakistan, who made light of winning a Test series in England last summer, in Lahore yesterday.

Yet even if England beat them both, it is conceivable that they will do so and be little the wiser about which players can best help them regain the Ashes next summer, or how they should go about it. Atherton and Lloyd have stated their belief that the bulk of the



ZIMBABWE
NOVEMBER 1996
30 v Districts (Harare South Country Club)

DECEMBER
1 v President's XI (Harare Sports Club)
3-6 v Mashonaland (Harare Sports Club)
8 v Matabeleland (African Club, Bulawayo)
10-13 v Zimbabwe (African Club, Bulawayo)
15 v Zimbabwe, 1st one-day International (Cisner's Club, Bulawayo)

18-22 v Zimbabwe, 1st Test (Queen's Club, Bulawayo)
25-30 v Zimbabwe, 2nd Test (Harare Sports Club)

JANUARY 1997
1 v Zimbabwe, 2nd one-day International (Queen's Club)
3 v Zimbabwe, 3rd one-day International (Harare Sports Club)

looking vulnerable. It is possible that these two players, each of whom appears capable of serving England well for years to come, will return home with their short-term careers in doubt, especially as Hick, who is spending the winter recharging his batteries at home, cannot be ruled out of the calculations for next summer.

Another concern — the main one — surrounds the bowling. Here, little is settled. Last summer, only Cork and Mullally played in all six Test matches, against India and Pakistan, and their supporting cast numbered nine in all. Several of those nine did not gain selection for either this tour or the A team in Australia, and three faces new to the England Test side since Lloyd's regime began last May — Gough, Silverwood and Tufnell — may now do important work this winter, especially after Cork's late withdrawal from the Zimbabwe leg.

Cork's absence, caused by unhappy domestic circumstances, may have one positive aspect, because it will place the remaining seam bowlers firmly under the spotlight, and their responses will be instructive. If it means that Silverwood, the only uncapped member of the party and the only real gamble, acquires the chance to show that he can fill the shoes of Fraser, as many believe him capable of doing, then all to pair are likely to have a key part to play. Neither of them should expect any great favours from the pitches, though, which will probably turn only slowly. There may be frustrations if things do not go according to plan, which would be a good test of Tufnell's new-found maturity.

The key to success, though, may lie with Atherton himself. Refreshed after a two-month lay-off, and as determined as ever to carry out his duties, he is now in a more influential position than at any time since

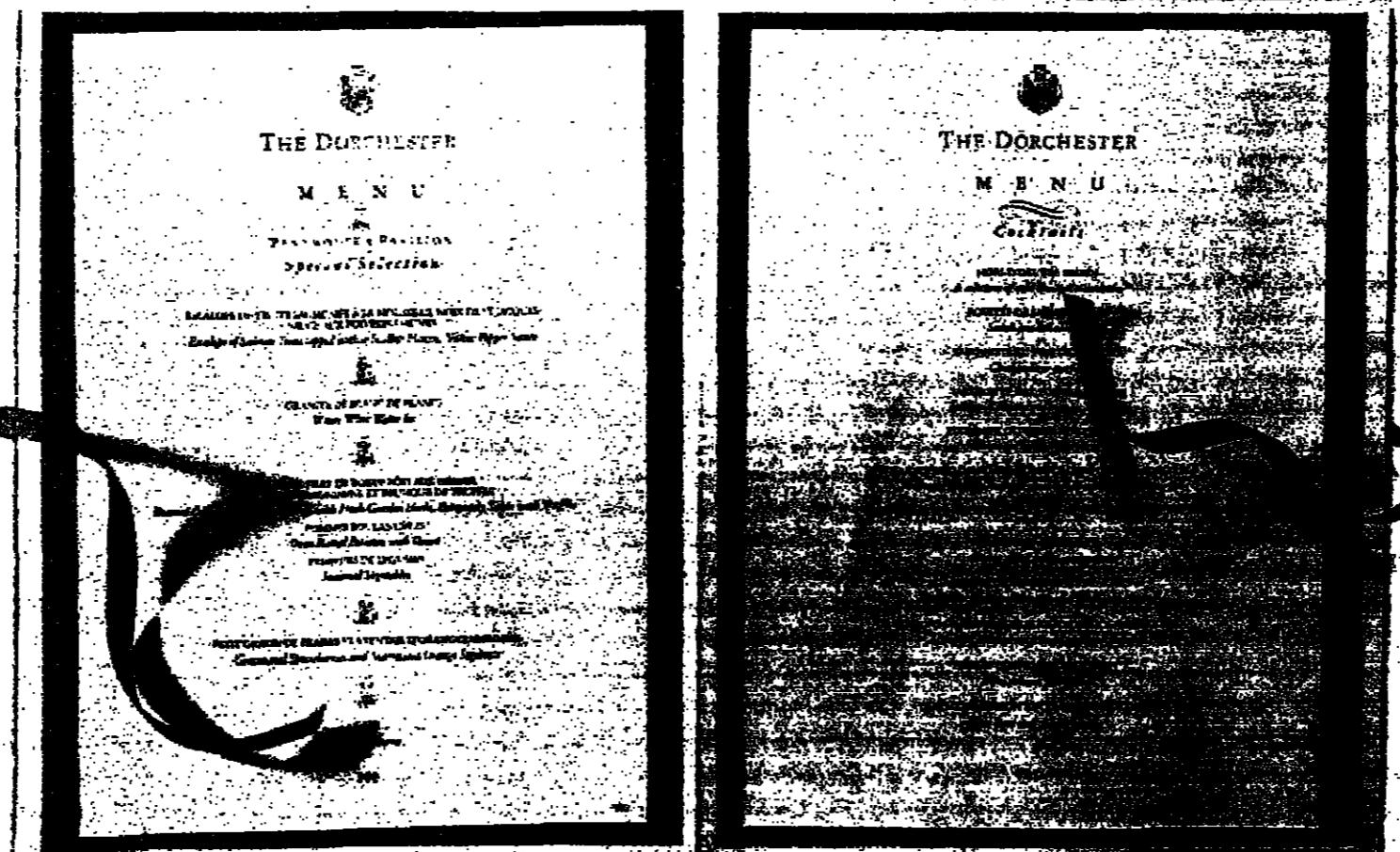
becoming England captain in August 1993. With Raymond Illingworth having departed the scene, his last act having been to supervise the selection of this tour party, Atherton is temporarily left without a chairman of selectors and surrounded by a management team made up of people whom he trusts and likes.

Having so far led three losing England teams abroad, in difficult series against West Indies, Australia and South Africa, plus an embarrassing subduing World Cup campaign on the sub-continent earlier this year, he certainly does not seem to be contemplating any half-measures this time — and nor should he.



Tufnell: temperament test

It's just words on a page,
until you taste it.



CRICKET: AUSTRALIA SEIZE CONTROL AFTER STAND OF 172 BETWEEN HOOPER AND CHANDERPAUL

Taylor spares West Indies follow-on

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN BRISBANE

BRISBANE (third day of five): Australia, with all second-innings wickets standing, are 210 runs ahead of West Indies

MARK TAYLOR does not believe in bowing to precedent or expectation as captain of Australia and he will be entirely unconcerned by the astonished reaction around the Gabba, yesterday, when he spared a suddenly punch-drunk West Indies side from following on in this fluctuating first Test match.

Taylor's retort will be that he pursued the same, contrary course against England on this very ground two years ago, and won the game. Yet all cricketing logic suggested that he was wrong in that instance and got away with it. Time will tell whether he can speak from strength again.

In 1994, Michael Atherton had been so resigned to following on that he was strapping on his pads when Taylor told him that he need not bother. Relief was the emotion upper-

most in English minds and, although they did finally lose, they recovered a measure of self-respect. West Indies, too, would have felt reprieved yesterday and, because this game has proceeded at a slower tempo, they also sensed a chance to escape defeat.

As against England, Taylor appeared to ignore the mental side of the equation in favour of the technical. This still immaculate pitch may well deteriorate by its fifth day, as he plainly anticipates, but, by then, West Indies will have a clear itinerary to concentrate their minds — minds that, late yesterday, were befuddled by the shock of a batting collapse to rival anything that England have contrived in recent years.

They ought to have been safe from indignity and contemplating first-innings parity once Carl Hooper and Shivnarine Chanderpaul, their inscrutable Guyanese, had shared a fourth-wicket stand of 172 in four hours. Somehow, from 249 for three, needing only 31 to make the follow-on inapplicable, they lost their last seven wickets for 28 in 74 balls.

To bat again then, with six overs of a darkening evening to come, would have been a daunting test of will. Now, two days remain for Australia to set an unassassable target, dismiss West Indies again and save their captain from some uncomfortable explanations. It is a tight schedule.

This

is the third successive Brisbane Test in which Australia have surpassed 400, batting first, and then been in a position to enforce the follow-on. Only last November, when a sensational spell of seven for 23 by Shane Warne bowled Pakistan out for 97, has Taylor followed convention.

His happy position in this game was initially gained by Ian Healy, who put a firm stop to speculation about his place in the side with an unbeaten 161. It was the highest Test score by an Australia wicketkeeper and, surprisingly, the first Test century in Brisbane by a native Queenslander; it also made the West

Indies bowling look distinctly ordinary.

Here, then, was the first examination of the character of a familiar team under fresh management and it could not be said that they failed. There were early tremors, especially when Brian Lara was out 25 minutes into the third day, underestimating the pace of a short one from Glenn McGrath, but, from 77 for three, Australia were obliged to toll fruitlessly for the equivalent of two sessions.

His happy position in this game was initially gained by Ian Healy, who put a firm stop to speculation about his place in the side with an unbeaten 161. It was the highest Test score by an Australia wicketkeeper and, surprisingly, the first Test century in Brisbane by a native Queenslander; it also made the West

Indies bowling look distinctly ordinary.

big scores. They batted together with the vigilance required by the game's situation and by their own individual devils. To a degree, they conquered both.

Hooper, troubled by little other than the occasional sharp outswinger from Michael Kasprowicz, in his first Test, completed his maiden Test century against Australia and his second in consecutive innings — the first dating back to the Oval in August 1995.

However, he came perilously close to the embarrassment of running himself out on 99 and the sequence of slow-motion replays convinced nobody other than Peter Parker,

the third umpire, that Hooper had made his ground.

He made only two more runs before being spectacularly caught by Ricky Ponting, diving in from mid-wicket. The bowler was Steve Waugh, who has now dismissed Hooper five times in Tests, but in his next he pulled up painfully with a strained groin and Ponting, thrown the ball in an inspired move by Taylor, completed the over with the wicket of Jimmy Adams, who missed his inswinger to register his first Test century.

There were personal battles to be won for Hooper and Chanderpaul, whose records indicate that they lack the stomach or the stamina for the

one run later, thus failing to convert his ninth Test fifty into his first century. Warne wicketless into his 26th over, picked up two leg-borders, the second highly questionable, and Reiffel completed figures of four for 58 when Curly Ambrose spooned his first ball to mid-on.

Ambrose looked mortified and Courtney Walsh, his captain, suitably baleful. The Australia fielders celebrated uninhibitedly. Then, Taylor, with that distinctively purposeful strut, approached Walsh and tapped his own chest to indicate his decision — brave, brilliant or simply misguided?

Waugh, the bowler, leads the appeals as Ponting dives to catch Hooper, the West Indies century-maker

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BADMINTON

GLASGOW: Scottish Open: Women's singles: Quarter-finals: Hu Mai (China) bt Caren Scott 11-21 14-21; M Sorensen bt Gao Fan (Can) 11-13 21-18; Caren Scott bt Scott 11-9, 11-11; M Sorensen bt E Chaijin (Eng) 11-9, 11-11; Fany Li (Eng) 11-12, 11-16. Men's singles: Quarter-finals: P Gade Christensen (Den) bt P Jantzen (Fin) 15-4, 15-4, A Boesen (Den) bt B Krajewski (Aust) 15-7, 17-15, 15-15; Chen (China) bt P Kovacs (Eng) 15-11, 15-5. Semifinals: Christensen/B. Boesen 15-4, 15-10; Fany Li (Eng) 15-11, 15-10; Final: Christensen/B. Boesen 15-8, 15-10.

BALLROOM DANCING

BLACKPOOL: British closed championships: Senior Modern: 1st, Linda Pescetti, 3rd, and 4th, Sharron McDonald; 2nd, A and B Sharron McDonald; 3rd, C and D Sharron McDonald; 4th, D Sharron McDonald. Men's and Women's Amateur Modern: 1st, C Hawkins and H Newland; 2nd, J Cheshire and D Sharron McDonald; 3rd, J Cheshire and D Sharron McDonald; 4th, Linda Pescetti, 5th, Sharron McDonald; 6th, G Nevin (Roach); 7th, R and E Sudha (Barrow-in-Furness); 8th, M and E Sudha (Barrow-in-Furness); 9th, M and E Sudha (Long Southampton).

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (15A): Friday, 27 Nov: 1. Atlanta Hawks 106, Boston 96; Philadelphia 76, 2. Lakers 96, San Antonio 86; Sacramento 108, Miami 111 (OT); Sunday, 29 Nov: 1. Atlanta Hawks 101, Detroit 76; 2. Indiana 78, 3. New Jersey 74, 4. Atlanta Hawks 93, 5. Nottingham 73, 6. Mid-South 73, 7. West 90; Nottingham 79, Plymouth 102; Celts 93; Guildford 73; Second division: 1. South Wales 84; Women's First division: 1. South Wales 72; Barling and Deneham 56; 2. South Wales 72; Barling and Deneham 56; 3. West 72; 4. Plymouth 62; 5. Nottingham 91; 6. London 31; 7. Plymouth 73; Second division: 1. South Wales 43; Doncaster 56; 2. Oxford 43; Leicester 53; Plymouth 54; Solihull 61.

BOWLS

DENNY CUP: Fourth round: City of Bly 78, 1. Bly 78; 2. Bly 78; 3. Bly 78; 4. Bly 78; 5. Bly 78; 6. Bly 78; 7. Bly 78; 8. Bly 78; 9. Bly 78; 10. Bly 78; 11. Bly 78; 12. Bly 78; 13. Bly 78; 14. Bly 78; 15. Bly 78; 16. Bly 78; 17. Bly 78; 18. Bly 78; 19. Bly 78; 20. Bly 78; 21. Bly 78; 22. Bly 78; 23. Bly 78; 24. Bly 78; 25. Bly 78; 26. Bly 78; 27. Bly 78; 28. Bly 78; 29. Bly 78; 30. Bly 78; 31. Bly 78; 32. Bly 78; 33. Bly 78; 34. Bly 78; 35. Bly 78; 36. Bly 78; 37. Bly 78; 38. Bly 78; 39. Bly 78; 40. Bly 78; 41. Bly 78; 42. Bly 78; 43. Bly 78; 44. Bly 78; 45. Bly 78; 46. Bly 78; 47. Bly 78; 48. Bly 78; 49. Bly 78; 50. Bly 78; 51. Bly 78; 52. Bly 78; 53. Bly 78; 54. Bly 78; 55. Bly 78; 56. Bly 78; 57. Bly 78; 58. Bly 78; 59. Bly 78; 60. Bly 78; 61. Bly 78; 62. Bly 78; 63. Bly 78; 64. Bly 78; 65. Bly 78; 66. Bly 78; 67. Bly 78; 68. Bly 78; 69. Bly 78; 70. Bly 78; 71. Bly 78; 72. Bly 78; 73. Bly 78; 74. Bly 78; 75. Bly 78; 76. Bly 78; 77. Bly 78; 78. Bly 78; 79. Bly 78; 80. Bly 78; 81. 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RACING

Singspiel helps end Dettori's year on spectacular note

By JULIAN MUSCAT

FRANKIE DETTORI extended his unbeaten association with Singspiel when they landed the Japan Cup in front of 137,000 spectators at Tokyo racecourse yesterday.

In concluding Dettori's year on a spectacular note, Singspiel, trained by Michael Stoute, fought hard to repel the locally-trained Fabulous La Fouine by a nose after a thrilling confrontation up the home straight. Heliosio started a well-backed favourite but could only head home for third with Strategic Choice, trained at Wimborne by Paul Cole. Pentire, the other British runner in the 15-strong field, finished eighth.

Dettori could hardly contain himself in the aftermath. "It has been one of the best days in my life," he said. "The Japan Cup has always been a special race for me ever since my father rode in one of the early runnings. As a little boy, one of the first videos I watched was of the Japan Cup and I always remember the winning jockey won a car." Indeed, Dettori collected a Nissan Cirra as part of his reward.

Dettori positioned Singspiel in sixth place until assuming command at the two-furlong marker. The four-year-old was quickly passed by Fabulous La Fouine — only

JAPAN CUP (Group 1, £1,073,928; 1m 4f). 1. SINGSPIEL (lt. Dettori); 2. Fabulous La Fouine (lt. Matsunaga); 3. Strategic Choice (lt. Cole); 4. Heliosio (lt. Peslier); 5. Safety (lt. Dettori); 6. Pentire (lt. Stoute); 7. Safety (lt. Dettori); 8. Newmarket (lt. Cole); 9. Heliosio (lt. Cole); 10. 100EN (lt. Cole); 11. 760; 12. 360; Strategic Choice 250; Heliosio 150

to regain the initiative in the closing stages. "The last furlong was a long one," Dettori said. "All Michael Stoute said to me was: 'Don't press the button too soon.' It was a hard battle, a wonderful race."

Singspiel, Britain's second winner of the Japan Cup in 16 renewals, earned £1,073,993 to hoist his seasonal balance beyond £17 million. All but £96,000 has been earned outside Britain and he now won more prize-money — £1,042,321 — than any other British-trained horse.

Stoute's golden spurs has been the primary source. The Newmarket trainer started the sequence when sending Singspiel to win the Canadian International in Toronto on September 29. Plisudski took second place in the Arc de Triomphe a week later before Stoute saddled both horses into first and second places in the Breeders' Cup Turf in Canada. This was Singspiel's third international assignment in eight weeks, which ridicules the belief that horses

are compromised by extensive travel.

"Singspiel has been in six photo-finishes and beaten in five," Stoute said. "Today was his day. We did have our worries when he ran a temperature on his arrival but the fever subsided. I had my doubts about Heliosio keeping his form at such a late stage in the season after a strenuous trip. I thought if we were to beat him, the Japan Cup would be our chance."

Oliver Peslier, Heliosio's regular jockey, reported of his mount: "I thought I'd win but, when I pressed the button, he didn't produce his overdrive."

Although Singspiel was due to return to Stoute's stable for another season, his victory is sure to trigger a flurry of Japanese bids. Remarkably, for all the massive Japanese investment in stallions from Europe and the United States, the first Japanese-bred horse to finish was Dance Partner, who trailed home tenth.

Singspiel's win is a timely boost to Dettori's prospects in the BBC Sports Personality of the Year poll. The jockey's seven-timer at Ascot forms the core of a profile to be screened on *Sportsnight* on Wednesday. Those doubting Dettori's influence should consider that his record aboard Singspiel stands at three-for-three. The horse is three-for-13 in the hands of others.

TRAINERS

| | W | PL | L | W/L | Ind. | Ind. |
|-------------|----|----|----|-----|-------|------|
| M Page | 24 | 48 | 40 | 4 | 45.5% | |
| R Stoute | 53 | 29 | 77 | 1 | +2.0% | |
| P Hobbs | 28 | 29 | 74 | 1 | +1.2% | |
| P Nichols | 28 | 29 | 74 | 3 | +2.6% | |
| D Nicholson | 26 | 12 | 7 | 1 | -1.5% | |

JOCKEYS

| | W | PL | L | W/L | Ind. | Ind. |
|-----------|-----|----|----|-----|--------|------|
| A P McCoy | 102 | 37 | 40 | 1 | +12.0% | |
| R Johnson | 47 | 27 | 29 | 1 | +1.2% | |
| R Dettori | 38 | 37 | 31 | 8 | -0.8% | |
| A Maguire | 38 | 37 | 31 | 0 | -7.3% | |

Nap: BRAZIL OR BUST (2.00 Folkestone) NB: Boardroom Shuffle (1.30 Folkestone)



Dettori shows his delight after triumphing on Singspiel in the Japan Cup

Into The Red a worthy member of the Aintree cult

Julian Muscat on a chaser who, like Red Rum, has prospered over the National fences

Let us give the horse his due after a week in which two quiet distanced landmarks were surpassed. Tony McCoy, the champion jumps jockey, was heroically feted when he raced to the fastest century of winners at Warwick on Thursday. Yet Into The Red on Saturday generated nothing more than the coverage routinely accorded the winner of a decent prize.

Appropriately enough, Into The Red won his race with a spectacular leap at the second-last fence. In the process, he cleared his 151st Aintree fence, one more than negotiated by Red Rum, whose Grand National exploits are synonymous with the race itself. If McCoy's record was

a tribute to precocity, Into The Red set new standards in endurance and heart.

No one, least of all this column, would pitch into The Red's achievements into the levels attained by Red Rum. Countless feats, proclaimed as remarkable, are destined to fade from memory, but truly memorable moments are enhanced by time's passage. So it is with Red Rum. How can we ever expect another horse to reduce the Grand National to the certainty of a one-horse race?

Into The Red has also prospered from Aintree's increased exposure to its would-be assailants. The November fixture, reinstated three years ago, has allowed the chestnut as many extra opportunities in the Becher Chase — over 3

miles 3 furlongs and 22 National fences. And in six Aintree outings he has twice failed to complete, a fate never experienced by Red Rum at a time when the fences were less forgiving.

If this closer examination somewhat diminishes Into The Red's advancement into the Aintree cult, consider the parallel case of McCoy. His eclipse of Peter Scudamore's quickest century owes everything to the jump season's earlier start. Scudamore reached the landmark fully a month ahead of McCoy's schedule, yet the former champion was quick to pay

tribute. "It's a fantastic achievement, whichever way you look at it," Scudamore enthused. The same applies to Into The Red — the more so, perhaps, for his advancing years.

That latter detail went a long way towards reconciling the horrific conclusion to Willsford's career at Cheltenham the previous week. That a steeplechaser, rising 14, collapsed and died of a heart attack in mid-race has repeatedly gnawed on the conscience.

Should he have been there at all? Shoulda? Willsford, a splendidly successful veteran

in the endurance category, have been pensioned off some time ago? Into The Red settled the argument. Himself 13, he bettered not just Aintree's demanding birch but the absurdly competitive Young Hustler, for whom death is a dirty word.

Young Hustler is himself

no stranger to Aintree, yet his headlong, attacking style contrasts sharply with his nemesis's measured approach. One soars over his fences with outpourings of energy. The other brushes through the top, where the birth is loose. One is courageous, the other cunning; but each is the master of Aintree. They expose the myth that the "Aintree factor" lies buried in the soil used to fill in Becher's Brook.

□ Lorcan Wyer was yesterday described as "ill but stable" after having surgery to repair a broken jaw at the Walton Hospital in Liverpool. Wyer, 32, is also believed to have broken a collarbone and sustained hip injuries in a fall from Thornton Gate at Aintree on Saturday.

All this should strike a chord with Mary Revey, who has re-joined Into The Red since he moved to her stable. Mrs Revey, no lover of Red Rum, has threatened to withhold the gelding from the great race on April 5. But if a veteran is to race at all, he must surely be campaigned where he is most at home. In that respect, Into The Red and Aintree are the King and his castle.

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Sally Jones explains the technique of snowboarding — and the art of falling without hurting your wrists

Face uphill and zig-zag downwards

My first taste of snowboarding was four years ago, and not auspicious. It was an outing, when I was five months pregnant, with a surly Swiss instructor in driving sleet on the icy lower slopes of the ski resort of Lenzerheide, in Switzerland.

After the barest handful of tips on technique, I and my fellow beginners were launched down a rutted piste devoid of even a sprinkling of powder snow to cushion our frequent falls. As we slewed and zig-zagged uncontrollably, both feet tethered to a broad unwieldy plank, our only means of slowing this terrifying progress seemed to be to throw ourselves flat on the ice, often bruising our knees and, in one case, sustaining a broken wrist.

Holisting myself upright on a board that constantly shot

SPORT FOR ALL

from underneath me proved impossible. So, after an hour of wriggling like a beetle on its back after each fall, I was forced to undo my foot bindings, stand up and laboriously refasten the bindings before spurring off once more on the way to the inevitable cataclysmic purée. I became completely exhausted and close to tears of frustration.

When another woman in the group asked how the baby was reacting to the rough ride, our instructor, who had not spotted the bulge beneath my skirt, exploded with fury and ordered me back to the hotel, cursing the irresponsibility of those who dared to attempt a sport like snowboarding when pregnant.

On reflection, I saw his point, but, at the time, my overwhelming emotion was not so much concern for the baby's safety as sheer relief to be taking an early bath after such a miserable experience.

When the Prince of Wales recently underwent a similar humiliation, tumbling repeatedly under the merciless lenses of the world's press, while his hip, relaxed sons plunged and veered faultlessly about the piste within minutes of their first attempts, my heart went out to him.

It was with considerable trepidation, therefore, that I agreed to take Victoria Smith, my athletic 16-year-old cousin, for her first taste of snowboarding at the Tamworth Snowdome, in Staffordshire, the only indoor "real snow" ski slope in Europe. Snowboarding originated in the United States in about 1929, but caught on seriously in the late 1960s as part of a growing vogue for "extreme" sports.

It hit Great Britain in the late 1980s when around 100 "board crazies" got the bug, mostly learning the basics on dry ski slopes and then saving up for trips to the Alps to experiment on real snow.

In the hire shop at the



Trees of skis: Sally Jones and her cousin Victoria Smith, choose snowboards from among the equipment on hire at Tamworth Snowdome before going off to join the other "board crazies" on the piste



"Goofies" place their right foot forward on the board

Snowdome, Marc Chester, 26, our instructor, a slalom specialist ranked in the top 15 of British snowboarders, helped us to choose our yet-style boots and five foot-long boards, to which the feet are strapped diagonally about 18 inches apart.

He said that the sport was expanding rapidly. "It's really taking off and in the past year it's gone berserk because to

lately everyone wants to try it," he said. "At this centre, we've got 20 specialists and it is estimated that, by 2000, one in three British adults will be snowboarders."

I was, he informed me, a "goofy", because I opted for bindings with right foot leading, while Victoria, with a leading left foot, was "regular". He first showed us how to scoot around with only the

front foot fastened to the board, then we carried our boards up the side of the 150-metre slope. At the top of a gentle, stepped incline, we learnt how to place the board parallel to the fall line and fasten our bindings, facing uphill, a useful precaution in my case because the familiar panic was setting in.

Making it look absurdly easy, Chester showed us "the edge" (the edge of the board towards which the toes point) and "heel edge", then demonstrated how, facing uphill, he kept his weight on his toes, heels slightly lifted, knees flexed, hips pressing forward, then gradually rotated his head and shoulders in the direction of his leading foot so that the board slid gently across the piste.

On the far side, he smoothly centred his weight, once more facing uphill, to slow the board, then gently rotated his torso towards the opposite side of the piste, weight onto his back foot, and skimmed across. The apparent simplicity of the manoeuvre was deceptive and, when Chester held my hands, talking me through my first attempt, all went well until towards the end I committed the cardinal sin of tensing up and sitting back on my heels, bottom out.

Within seconds of starting my first unaccompanied run, however, the board was facing downhill and spurring forward out of control until I

managed to sit down, taking care not to break my fall with my hands, the main source of broken wrists. It was only after half a dozen attempts that I finally began to feel that I could control the board, rather than bailing out when it bolted.

Victoria, with fewer inhibitions, was making faster progress — drifting stylishly across the piste and only once coming to grief, when she

forgot to keep her weight on her toes, caught a heel edge and was catapulted backwards down the slope. Next, we graduated to heel edge; this time starting off facing downhill, "weight" on our heels, bottom out, legs almost straight.

Pretend you've just been punched in the solar plexus," Chester said helpfully. Feeling fairly winded after several falls, I did not find this

difficult, although my progress was still too much of a white-knuckle ride for me to achieve the desired air of relaxed insouciance. Victoria was gliding serenely from side to side, "like a drifting leaf", crowed Chester, and, by the second lesson, had reached the stage of smoothly negotiating a turn from a toe edge at one side of the piste onto a heel edge to reach the other. This is the level before achieving the

short zig-zags of snowboarding proper.

By her third lesson, Victoria was utterly hooked, requesting a specialist snowboarding session, with emitted "board stuff", three hours of loud music, laddishness (from both sexes), and heart-stopping aerobatics. Oh to be 16 again. On my form, I shall be about ready to accompany her when snowboarding becomes an Olympic sport in 1998.

GETTING STARTED: It is advisable to try the sport in Great Britain, learning through a BSA qualified instructor, to make sure that you enjoy it before booking a snowboarding holiday abroad and spending money on equipment. Tamworth Snowdome and most of Britain's dry slopes will hire out snowboards and boots and provide instruction. Learning on a dry ski slope demands greater precision as it is possible to "cheat" more on snow, where the board slides back into alignment more easily.

AGE RANGE: Tamworth's snowboarders range from nine (the lower age limit) to 75. Children and teenagers tend to become good quickly because of their extra flexibility, lack of inhibitions and lower centres of gravity, but with perseverance and a moderate level of fitness, anyone can master snowboarding — given time.

COST: The prices at Tamworth are comparable with dry slopes in the rest of Britain, but all vary slightly. A group lesson at the snowdome costs between £18 and £50 an hour; an individual session £30. Once you



Learning on a dry ski slope requires great precision

have grasped the basics, an hour's recreational boarding costs £13.00 off-peak (£14.50 at peak times) and £8.50 for Snowdome members, who pay an annual fee of £50.

EQUIPMENT: The price varies depending on quality, particularly the snowboards, which are made like broad skis with a wooden core,

carbon-fibre base, metal edges and metal nose and tail. Most beginners start on a "free-ride" board, longer and with less give than "freestyle" boards, used for tricks and jumps, but shorter and more flexible than the "Alpine" boards used in slalom. A basic board costs about £200, while a competition board would be nearer

£550. Boots range from £70 to £220.

A standard padded waterproof jacket and trousers, cut like baggy jeans with reinforced bottom and knees, are about £100, but the more fashionable heavy-duty versions with hoods and hidden zips can cost double this amount. Gloves range from £25 to £100 and child snowboarders are advised to wear helmets (about £25).

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS: Always wear gloves and well-padded kit; beginners fall constantly and frequent tumbles on icy pistes and dry slopes alike can prove bruising without a reasonable level of upholstery, particularly on the knees and bottom. Try to relax as you fall, rather than tensing up, and avoid putting out your hands to save yourself because of the risk of wrist and finger injuries.

For further information contact the British Snowboarding Association, 5 Cressex Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 4PG (fax: 01944 462229) or Tamworth Snowdome, Leisure Island, River Drive, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7ND (tel: 01827 67905).

Declarer played low from dummy on the club lead, East played the queen and declarer won the ace. Declarer played on hearts, East winning the third round with dummy discarding a spade. At this point, many players would automatically return a club. Now, after West takes his king, declarer has nine tricks.

Can you see any improvement for the defence? What Hallberg did when he won the king of hearts was to count declarer's tricks. South was bound to have the ace of diamonds — else why would he not be playing on diamonds, rather than removing the ace of hearts as entry to them? So, it was clear that South had seven tricks in the red suits to go with the ace of clubs, and a club return would

set up his ninth trick. South needed the queen of spades to make up his 12-14 1 NT, so the defence could not make more than two tricks there.

So, East returned a diamond. This innocuous-looking play scrambles declarer's entries. If he wins in hand to lead a club, he is never likely to cash his fourth heart. If he cashes the fourth heart first, what is dummy to discard?

One spade has already been discarded on the third heart and, if he discards another one, the defence can take four spade tricks when they come in with the king of clubs. The only other choice is to discard the ace of hearts as entry to them? So, it was clear that South had seven tricks in the red suits to go with the ace of clubs, and a club return would

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Little girls of the gym become women of substance.

I got a touch fed up with the dark side of man's soul last week. Actually, they were both quite good books, the two boxing titles on the shortlist for the William Hill sports book of the year award, but, after a bit, I could not help feeling, well, that's enough dark side of the soul, Ed.

After two books on the awful beauty of boxing, another book on the shortlist dwelt at length on the uprightness and cruelty of another sport. So, at the weekend, summing the voluptuous pleasures of boxing, I sought the foulness and depravity of the DTB-Pokal International in Stuttgart.

Oh! I thought. Oh! What is this dark side of my soul, this terrible aspect of human nature, that makes me delight in women's gymnastics? Is it perhaps, the sad dignity of the battered and bruised performers like Svetlana Chorkina? Or is it the terrible spectacle of grace under pressure?

This was an invitation event, part of the so-called grand prix circuit, an effort to promote gymnastics and its performers outside the

leading competitions. It is a nice idea that has yet to set the world alight; they keep talking about a grand prix in Birmingham, and one of the sponsors pulled out of the weekend's event, but it was all wonderful stuff, if you are strong-minded enough to put up with all this terrible communion with the dark side of your soul.

Chorkina is a giantess. She is the queen of the asymmetric bars, which is a tribute to her extraordinary will, and to the inventiveness of her coach, who says that he has often dreamt moves for his charge.

For she stands 5ft 5in, and practically all of that is thigh. She is also in the process of seizing the title of the diva of the gym, with the great Svetlana Bouginskaya no longer a force.

A little-known fact about divas is that they work extremely hard to stay divas. In the practice arena, I watched Chorkina stretch and tumble remorselessly, while Boris Pilkin, her coach, the aforementioned dreamer, said: "It's hard for her, being so tall. She must show every element better than every-

body else. This is because, with her build, every small mistake is exaggerated. She must do everything to 100 per cent, but it is something that works two ways. If she does it very well, it looks much better with her than with the others. So she will get higher marks."

She walks, then, a tightrope of perfection. She looked even taller than she did at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, and she is certainly a little heavier. She has changed her Sainsbury's checkout girl quiff, too. If was she you will recall, whose reaction to winning gold on the asymmetric bars was: "First, I would like lots of compliments and, second, I would like lots of flowers."

I have discussed the book about cruelty in gymnastics before; it is called *Little Girls in Pretty Boxes*, by Joan Ryan, and it is an important book, with some terrible stuff about bullying coaches. Do

you and Svetlana have rows, I asked Pilkin. "She has a temperament," he said. "She is always herself, and always has a need to win, but me, I am never loud. If you want someone to hear you, you speak more softly. She, sometimes, is loud, but me, I do not shout. I do not scold her. She knows herself when she has made a mistake."

Ryan's book contains many examples of the horrors, psychological and physical, inflicted by coaches and, for that matter, parents on little girl gymnasts; but it does not tell the whole story.

Behind every tennis parent, there is a tennis child. The prodigies may be pushed, cajoled and bullied; but there cannot be a competitor without desire. A complicated business, I know, but the fact is that these elite female gymnasts have, in themselves, a desire to perform, to fly, to win.

Before the event in Stuttgart

began, I watched Gina Georgan, of Romania. She had entered the main arena, to accustom herself to the nature and the feel of the place, and, after her coach had gone, she remained. Sitting, thinking, absorbing the vibes of the Schleyer-Halle with a quiet seriousness. She did not want to gossip with her pals. She wanted to win.

Every now and then, she would perform a thistledown tumble, mostly working on the back layout, the most beautiful single movement in all of sport. You cannot be an elite performer without a will of iron; not your coach's or your parents' will, but your own.

The bullying coach is a fact in all sports. It is just that we do not see them. All sports have their cruelties (sport being an aspect of life) and sporting injuries to children are inevitable. How many boys' ambitions end with knees damaged by too much football? All elite performers in every sport balance precariously on the summit of a pyramid of the broken dreams of others.

Right now, gymnastics gives us a chance to savour the skills of the older competitors. The rules have been changed. Competitors must now be at least 16 in the year of competition; with a new intake held back, the older competitors have an opportunity to expand their ideas and the nature of their sport.

It is less a sport for pre-pubescent pixies these days, as Chorkina and the rest show you. Little girls move with frenzied urgency of the kind first invented by the still-unforgettable Olga Korbut, but Chorkina moved into first places in the asymmetric bars with a routine of languorous grace. The taller you are, the more astonishing is flight, and Chorkina is truly astounding.

She did not win, because the event had a ginnicky jump-off format, and she made a mess of it. Kathleen Kern, a German (incidentally, married and aged 21), won it. It made up for her floor routine, that was wrecked when she suffered the misfortune of having her leotard go up her bum. Ah me! A cruel business, elite sport.



Chorkina has emerged as the diva of gymnastics

City slump gives food for thought

Supporters of clubs who have failed to live up to expectations so far this season — such as Nottingham Forest and Bradford City — can always take heart that they do not support Manchester City. There are stories that a gypsy curse was placed on Maine Road, probably around the time that Malcolm Allison signed Rodney Marsh in the early Seventies, and since then, under the chairmanship of first the late Peter Swales and now Francis Lee, City have been perennial under-achievers. However, their present plight, with a managerless team sliding towards the Nationwide League's second division, must rank as the darkest of many dark hours.

The talk in the wine bars of Manchester is that Lee is "sheeved off" and wants to sell out. Apparently, a stream of suitors has been knocking on his door, willing to purchase his 15 per cent stake in the club and put in fresh finance. Names in the frame have ranged from the Conrad Group, which failed in the bidding for Leeds United, to Prince Al-Waleed, a savior of lost causes ranging from Euro Disney to Canary Wharf, to a group of Manchester businessmen that includes Mike McDonald, the present Sheffield United chairman. None of these would-be deals has come to anything.

Manchester City shares are traded on the OTC market and their performance has been at odds with that of the team. The present price of £120 a share gives a market value of something in the region of £20 million for the club. However, such is the feeling about City that it is reckoned that an offer of £10 million could easily be successful.

An offer of £10 million could be successful!

floating with a value of more than £100 million, then a Manchester City rested to the FA Carling Premiership must be worth at least £50 million. City also has a good raft of celebrity supporters, including the Gallagher brothers, Noel and Liam, of Oasis fame, Bernard Manning, the comedian, Bob Willis, the former fast-bowling England cricket captain, and Howard Davies, the deputy governor of the Bank of England.

If the club is to be taken over, the most obvious candidate to do so is Stephen Boler, the kitchens tycoon, who recently cashed in a 35 per cent stake in his Limelight Group for more than £60 million. He once owned 25 per cent of City, but not that to 15 per cent when Lee took charge. Boler likes to be in the background, and has never taken a seat on the board, but, having got out of one Limelight, is this the time for him to step into another?

JASON NISSE

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Keegan, centre, the Birkdale School scrum half, who capped an impressive performance with his team's try, takes on Silcoates' defensive cover

Stimpson hard act to follow at Silcoates

By BARRY TROWBRIDGE

A HUT on Longrigg Fell, in the Lake District, and a nine-hole par-three golf course in the school grounds number among the outdoor facilities offered by Silcoates School, on the northwest outskirts of Wakefield, but it was a far more traditional school activity — rugby union — that the attention of staff and pupils on Saturday as Tim Stimpson, the captain of the first XV as recently as 1991-92, made his debut for England in the international against Italy at Twickenham.

Having switched its status from being a boarding institution for boys to one primarily for day students, of both sexes, in 1992, and with the last boarder leaving 18 months ago, Silcoates no longer timetable lessons on Saturday mornings. So, on days such as Saturday, games fixtures can be completed in ample time for a liberal dose

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

for hero worship to be accommodated after lunch.

For the first time, Birkdale School, from Sheffield, provided Silcoates' opponents this weekend, in a scheduled six fixtures, home and away, brought about after Steve Teasdale took up the post of master-in-charge of rugby there 18 months ago and reacquainted himself with Alan Gammon, his counterpart at Birkdale, with whom he was a student at Madeley College, in Shropshire, and represented that county at the halved game.

Snow in South Yorkshire restricted the programme to the three games in Wakefield and, on a crisp morning, honours were split perfectly, each school recording a 10-7 victory with the third game shared 22-22.

In Stimpson's final year at Silcoates, when he played on the wing for England 18 Group, his XV included several scholars who now play

for Sandal in the fourth division of the Courage Clubs' Championship as well as Jon Shepherd, a regular try-scorer for Morley in the third division, and, not surprisingly, it enjoyed what senior members of staff enthusiastically described as "a wonderful year".

Time, though, moves on and, although Teasdale's first XV gave him the moral upper hand over his old friend with victory in the top game, he willingly admitted that his is not a team to

threaten the local three-pronged power base of Queen Elizabeth's, Bradford and Leeds Grammar Schools.

With four fifth-formers in the first XV and 12 in the second XV against Birkdale, who, within six minutes, had taken the lead when Robert Keegan, their scrum half, went solo from a tapped penalty ten metres out and Tom Wadsworth converted; and with Tom Marples — the epitome of a schoolboy prop — and Chika Uzoigwe outstanding among the forwards, they showed enough spark to take the honours.

Formerly a top official, whistlerwise, abundantly apparent from his hand signals, Lindop failed to deal effectively with the in-house "disputes" between the front rows and enamoured himself even less to the neutrals (as well as to the Birkdale supporters) on the touchline when he awarded Dominic Brindley, the Silcoates full back, captain and puppeteer supreme, a try, 25 minutes into the game.

When he dropped the ball on his way to ground after slicing his way through from the 22.

That "score" prompted an instant rally from Birkdale, who, within six minutes, had taken the lead when Robert Keegan, their scrum half, went solo from a tapped penalty ten metres out and Tom Wadsworth converted; and with Tom Marples — the epitome of a schoolboy prop — and Chika Uzoigwe outstanding among the forwards, they showed enough spark to take the honours.

The fire, though, never quite ignited, and, as the game ran its ill-tempered and technically indifferent course in the second half, Mathew Gwynne, their scrum half, recaptured the lead for Silcoates with another individual effort and the scoring — and what little creative excitement that the game had to offer — was over.

SCORERS: Silcoates: Tries: D Brindley, M Gwynne, B Brindley; Try: R Keegan. Conversions: T Wadsworth.

trimming and sail changes to try to stay ahead.

A message to race headquarters from *Toshiba* on Saturday underlined how close the racing has been. "This morning's position report had ten yachts within four miles of the leader," it said. "We can see six yachts and bearings are being taken on our closest rivals regularly. Sail trimming is continuous. This is exciting sailing and demonstrates how closely matched the fleet can be, with the lead having changed hands three or four times in the past 12 hours."

Boris Webber, the skipper of *Courtaulds International*, who had a horrible first leg and started the second with a stomach bug, is clearly delighted to be back in the thick of things and lying fourth place yesterday. "Making good progress with good teamwork resulting from good morale, anticipation and initiative," he reported.

In the Vendée global single-handed non-stop round-the-world race, the two leading yachts, *Isabelle Autissier's Géode* and *Christophe Auguin's Géode*, are averaging around 16 knots as they continue south towards the Roaring Forties.

Yves Parlier is third, about 70 miles behind the leading pair, having improvised a new forestay after his original one broke. There is then a gap of 320 miles to Hervé Laurent on *Group 4G*, Pete Goss, of Great Britain on *Aqua Quorum*, is ninth, about 1,000 miles behind Autissier, but leading the third group of yachts. A further 1,200 miles behind is Tony Bullimore, the only other Briton in the race, on *Exide Challenger*.

Handball primed to land its biggest catch

David Powell on how a once debt-ridden sport is

eyeing the ultimate goal of Olympic qualification

MING Rowland also coaches after school once a week. Because the game requires no difficult skills at beginner stage, children take it to immediately.

"It is such a natural sport," Rowland said. "All they are doing is throwing, catching, running and jumping."

The rules are easy to learn: players can hold the ball for three seconds and take a maximum of three steps. To go further, you have to bounce the ball. "You do not teach them to run and bounce too early because they get selfish and the idea is to get as many children as possible involved," Rowland said.

It is ideal for schools because it is easy to instruct and cheap. Mike Onyon, Haslingden's head teacher, said that starting handball from scratch costs the school some £200, whereas football and netball would be close to £1,000. "It has been of tremendous value because it encour-

ages people who are not involved in other sporting activities," Onyon said. "They can compete from a low skill level."

What do the children think? Of six interviewed, four said that they preferred handball to football. One is Christopher Tattersall, who plays for the school football team. "You get more passing about in handball and everybody can play, that is what I like," he said.

Rowland's enthusiasm is infectious. As president of the Commonwealth Handball Association, he was about to leave for the Commonwealth Cup in South Africa, but this day in Lancashire he was savouring two primary school players who caught his eye. "He is only pint-sized, but he has great athletic skills," Rowland said of Sathish Nawaz, a brilliant goalkeeper. "At Haslingden, the pyramid is

complete: primary school feeds into secondary, secondary into the local club. There are 80 clubs in Great Britain, changed days from 1989, when handball was on its knees. "We were in such a mess, £30,000 in debt, no development programme, and there were only 14 members of the association," Rowland said.

A Sports Council grant of £10,000, a £23,000 loan from the British Olympic Association and sponsorship from NatWest Bank helped to put the BHA in the black this year for the first time. The job that Rowland started in 1988, when he and three others each chipped in a fiver to form the BHA, running it from a Liverpool fishing tackle shop, could land its catch in 2004.

As the school's programme begins to bite, the BHA is looking towards Olympic qualification. "Great Britain has a 100 per cent failure record in qualifying for indoor team sports in the summer Olympic Games," Rowland said. Nawaz and Claxton, and growing numbers like them, fill Rowland with hope that handball can reverse the trend.

Dedicated to success in the air



IT HAS been another good year for Airbus, the European aircraft manufacturer. The crowning achievement came this month when the airline USAir agreed to orders and options for up to 400 of the company's planes.

Airbus brings together manufacturers in its four full partners — Britain, France, Germany and Spain — and its associates, Holland and Belgium. Each tends to specialise, with British Aerospace Airbus having prime responsibility for wings and fuel systems.

British Aerospace Airbus, based at Filton near Bristol, is an enthusiastic supporter of the IGDS in Aerospace

AEROSPACE

Design, Manufacture and Management. The company has put more than 40 of its engineers through the IGDS course since it started in 1991. "We are careful about the people we pick," says Duncan Greenman, a human resources manager at British Aerospace Airbus, "because we have got to make sure they have the ability and interest, the dedication and determination; we have also got to make sure we make the best possible use of them in the future."

One of those who met these criteria is Mark Howard,

research project leader with British Aerospace Airbus. His first degree is Engineering with Aeronautics which he took at Bath and he is now coming to the end of the IGDS course which should secure him an MSc. "Looking back to five years ago, I had a narrow view of my job although my interests were wide. The IGDS course broadened my knowledge, not only of British Aerospace, but of the engineering industry and the helicopter industry. Then there is a sharing of best practice — you find out about the way in which

other companies operate." Both men agree that the IGDS process broadens delegates' knowledge and awareness, giving them an appreciation of business and human issues as well as engineering and technology. In addition, the course helps them to build up contacts and in many cases it also makes them more self-confident.

There is the potential for long-term value as well. "These people," says Mr Greenman, "have been given a preparation for the rest of their careers and the majority are under thirty. So we are preparing them for 20 or 30 more years of valuable service with the company."

Degree of experience is priceless

PACKAGING

COLIN HATTON fails to match any of the usual criteria for an IGDS course. Fifty this year, he decided to set up as a consultant after more than 20 years with HMSO, where he worked in a laboratory evaluating paper and other materials. While he had built up considerable experience over those years, he feels that getting a degree will be valuable in his new career.

He took an exam to gain Membership of the Institute of Packaging, which qualified him to go on an IGDS course on Packaging Technology run by Brunel and Loughborough Universities. He started in 1994 and, as he is self-employed, is paying his own course fees of about £7,000. "I decided to spend a little bit in the hope of returning more," he says.

With a practical turn of mind and a determination to solve problems, Mr Hatton has already had some success in his new career. He has developed a small, plastic attaché case for the National Extension College as an alternative to conventional ring-binders for holding course material.

Another idea is a light-weight support that can be clipped to the back of a ring-binder, holding it at an angle which makes it easier to read. The support folds away and can be clipped to the ring-binder.

With obvious delight, he opens an ordinary IGDS course ring-binder to reveal a mass of papers neatly separated by coloured plastic strips which have sliding pieces to mark a point of interest on a particular page. This idea, he hopes, will get him his MSc and possibly be a commercial success as well.

While Mr Hatton is not a typical student, his course follows the typical IGDS format. It is part-time and includes nine modules: five are one-week residential modules at the two universities and the others are studied by distance learning. Successful completion leads to a diploma, while adding a project offers the prospect of an MSc.

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How to turn waste into water

Graham Clayton on a course with a fresh approach to technology

Because of its rural Bedfordshire location, Cranfield University has its own sewage farm dealing with the output, from a community of about 1,200. Here, students can get first-hand experience of effluent treatment.

In October last year, the university set up one of the newer IGDS courses called Water and Waste Water Technology. Professor Tom Stephenson, director of the School of Water Sciences, says: "We are interested in process technologies for the treatment of water and waste water — technologies associated with the improvement of water quality. Anything from water for industrial use to water for a swimming pool."

Cransfield was already running a full-time course covering these technologies and so it had a clear insight into the industry's needs as well as valuable contacts. From these, it became clear that there was a change of emphasis taking place in an industry traditionally dominated by civil engineers. Professor Stephenson says: "There was a real need for people with process technology skills — chemical engineering-type skills."



Professor Tom Stephenson says: "There is a need for people with process technology skills"

a microchip factory, for drinking water, or for industrial effluent."

A very important aspect of all IGDS courses is providing practical experience of real

industrial problems. One of the modules will be run in co-operation with Thames Water and Professor Stephenson hopes it will take place at a

large sewage works and a

Ringing all the industry changes

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A WEEK does not go by without some aspect of the telecommunications industry appearing in the news. Stories range from the global ambitions of BT, through the latest advances in mobile phone technology to concern about child pornography on the Internet.

This makes an IGDS course for the industry essential and a challenge to organise. Professor John O'Reilly, who occupies the Chair of Telecommunications at University College London (UCL) has taken up the task with enthusiasm.

"Telecoms must be one of the most exciting sectors to work in," he says. "I tell people I feel privileged to work in it

because of that. There is a great deal of change, so keeping up with it is a major challenge. That is why this programme has been needed above all else."

The course, Telecommunications for Industry, recruited its first delegates in October last year but its origins go back to the late Eighties when BT asked UCL to organise and run MSc courses at its Martlesham research laboratory. Like IGDS courses, these were modular and could be taken over several years while students continued their full-time work.

Although the IGDS course is derived from this, it is markedly different since it covers the whole industry. From the beginning of 1995, UCL began piloting several modules to get the format and emphasis right.

The course is run in partnership with a wide cross-section of industry: network operators such as BT, equipment suppliers such as Nortel and GPT, and cable companies which have telecommunications services. It is also in partnership with other London University colleges — Queen Mary College, Imperial and King's — because no one department has top-level expertise across the whole area.

Professor O'Reilly is keen to emphasise the important teaching role which industry offers: "Each module has an industrial monitor in addition to having a university manager," he says. "It is those two working together, pulling in expertise where they need it, who shape the content and emphasis of the individual modules to meet the needs of industry."

"Delegates are required to undertake projects which generally relate to a specific problem or need in their companies. Again, industry and academics work together."

Industry also contributes through the industrial management committee, which was built up from those who originally shaped the teaching programme. The committee meets periodically to consider how this should change and develop.

The course has proved very popular and Professor O'Reilly says it is exceeding its recruitment targets by between 50 and 100 per cent.

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Further details may be obtained from the Programme Director: Dr C James BSc PhD FSS, Department of Medical Statistics

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THE MITEL CHALLENGERS TROPHY

Sponsored section

Companies are seeing the benefit of sending their staff on testing exercises, says John Young

It's tough but builds teamwork

It was the Roman poet Juvenal who proclaimed the importance of a healthy mind in a healthy body. Centuries later the idea became central to the English public school ethos, with the proviso that team games in particular helped to promote initiative, leadership and responsibility.

Success in war, it was felt, depended upon the quality of the officers. The other ranks were seen as an amorphous mass, drilled into submission and bullied into obeying orders at all times.

Such attitudes lingered until well after the Second World War, but the modern Armed Services have long since realised that encouraging all ranks to develop their mental and physical abilities, and to operate as a team rather than a hierarchy, makes for a happier and more professional workforce.



Peter Bishop: "motivator"

But firms in "civvy street" — or most of them — have been slower to get the message. Despite a degree of acceptance that employees who spend evenings and weekends training with the Territorial Army often have something extra to offer, there is still a tendency to deride the service mentality as unsuited to the demands of late 20th century commerce.

Businessmen, for example,

are accustomed to a highly competitive environment, and consequently the sort of programmes devised for management training have a strong competitive element. The Mitel Challengers Trophy, which is claimed to be the foremost event of its kind, owes its inspiration to a Belgian businessman, Michel Malschaert.

The first Challengers Trophy was held in Spa, Belgium,

in 1986. Next year it will be the Ribble Valley, in Lancashire, on July 9-12. The event, expected to attract up to 100 teams, is spread over four days and is divided into eight or more stages, including one overnight exercise. Each company team consists of six employees, male and female, aged between 18 and 55, of whom four participate at any one time.

A senior executive is asked to take part on the final day.

They all have to pass a medical, although the organisers stress they do not need to be super-athletes and that only an average degree of fitness is required.

Participants can expect to cover up to 70 kilometres in four days, mainly on foot but also by bicycle and canoe. Since the accent is on brain as well as brawn, the distance covered depends considerably on their ability to read maps,

interpret instructions and plan the best routes.

Peter Bishop, managing director of Challenger UK, the event organisers, says that it requires competitors to make difficult team decisions on the run, or while canoeing, cycling, climbing rockfaces or map-reading their way out of forests.

"The essence of the event is team spirit, the ability to make swift decisions under pressure, loyalty to fellow team members and a commitment to personal excellence," he says.

For all the efforts to avoid military overtones, it is not without significance that both Mr Bishop and Philip Pearce, the course organiser, are former officers in The Queen's Regiment. After leaving the Army in 1989, Mr Bishop started his own marketing company, Europac, which later expanded into public relations, utilising his close contacts with the Armed Services and the defence industry.

Since his appointment to Challenger UK in 1994, he has made a point of avoiding what

he sees as the mistakes made in other countries of allowing the event to become too elitist, requiring near-professional standards of physical fitness.

The French equivalent, for example, involves an ascent of Mont Blanc, for which intensive special training is required.

"It was going the same way in this country," he recalls. "Unless you were a marathon runner or a fell walker, you didn't stand a chance."

"Since then I have tried to pull it back to the level of the ordinary person who is reasonably fit, and who can take part and have some fun along the way as well."

"It's not about getting people to do things they don't want to do, but I like to think I'm a good motivator as well as a good trainer."

His view is echoed by Sebastian Coe, Conservative MP and winner of two Olympic gold medals. He says: "This sort of competition exposes people to a physical challenge in the nicest possible way. They learn to cope with things quite outside their day-to-day experiences."

ORGANISING THE CONTEST

One of the first things that Peter Bishop did on being appointed managing director of Challenger UK was to recruit his former regimental colleague, Philip Pearce, to plan the course for the event. John Young writes.

Having spent his final years in the Army commanding a territorial unit, Mr Pearce had first-hand experience of providing physical and mental challenges for young people whose full-time occupations were in civilian life.

"The emphasis in all events of this sort is on teamwork, and my principal objective is to devise a course which will enable the participants to work in teams," says Mr Pearce.

"There are strong similarities with orienteering, but that can be an intensely individual thing. So we give the participants problems which they have to solve as they go and which they have to discuss among themselves."

Both he and Mr Bishop stress the competitive nature of the event. "They are up against the clock as well as against other teams. They are not just playing around with their friends."

Spread over four days, the contest is far more testing than a one-day outing at the end of which the participants can look forward to a hot bath and a stiff drink. Mr Pearce points out. Those taking part can get very tired and they find they have to rely on other members of their team to get through.

Although most of the course is on foot, he tries wherever possible to introduce climbs with ropes, river crossings and bicycle stages.

"We want the course to offer a physical and intellectual challenge," he says. "We try to make the competitors think all the time they are on the go."

Aside from the planning, the logistics involve managing a staff of more than 100 people, equipped with four-wheel-drive vehicles, minibuses, vans, crowd barriers, safety helmets, ropes, lifejackets, canoes, mountain bikes and medicines.

Accommodation and three meals a day need to be provided for up to 700 people. And that offers a formidable management challenge in itself.

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commitment to teamwork, communication, leadership and

problem-solving. (A sense of humour also helps!) And when they eventually finish they will be better equipped to contribute to their company, big or small. The Mitel Challengers

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- 7 ORANGE (BRISTOL)
- 8 LOMBARD NUMBER ONES
- 9 MITEL SEMICONDUCTOR
- 10 PITMANS PONIES (LLOYDS BANK PLC)
- 11 BT
- 12 TETRA TOPS (TETRA PAK UK LTD)
- 13 MITEL TELECOM
- 14 BT LABS ADVANCED NETWORKS
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THE MITEL CHALLENGERS TROPHY

Sponsored section

How brainpower won the day

It is not just brawn that can give teams an edge, says

Rodney Hobson

Although events such as the Mitel Challengers Trophy are seen primarily as tests of physical fitness, it was added brainpower that gave CT Bowring, the insurance broker, victory in the 1996 event.

Bowring had entered a team in five previous events and had managed second place one year, but in 1995 the team was nowhere in sight.

Geoffrey Maitland-Jones, the team captain, explains the transformation that gave victory to the magnificent seven who formed the Bowring Broncos this year: "We had a varied team. Two of us were good at brain-teasers, something that had been lacking in previous years. We had always been good on the physical side and I had been trying to tell people you don't have to be marathon man to take part."

Mr Maitland-Jones had taken part in three previous Mitel Challengers Trophies and had experience as team captain, but missed last year. He returned to the leader's role this year as the natural choice. He says: "It devoted to me because I had been in the Army and had experience in this kind of activity and in navigation. I did not think we had a chance of winning. Last year we did not do particularly well because it was not an experienced team and I would have been happy to come in the top ten this time."

Three of last year's team came back for more, but two members were new to the event. Although CT Bowring, which is part of Marsh & McLennan, the world's largest insurance broker, has 2,000 staff at its London office, the seven who took part this year were the only volunteers.

Dave Tookey, Bowring's team captain for the first two years and a veteran of six campaigns, says: "In the early days we had about a dozen volunteers who were whittled down to four men who took part. More recently it has been harder to get a team out. The reputation that you have to be a superman has deterred people. I am pretty active and the first couple



On form: Bowring contestants in the cross-country stretch of this year's event and, below, facing the challenge of the cycling circuit

of years were brutal, but the competition has moved on. The organisers have done a good job in moving on to other attributes.

It is not at all incongruous for an insurance broker to be taking part in this kind of event. You cannot relate challenges to any particular business. Not many people in any walk of life go running round woods at night."

CT Bowring gave its support from the start. It pays for entry to the competition and subsidises training, paying for accommodation and for weekend sessions. Mr Tookey says: "You cannot do much rugged training in the City. In the early days we went to Wales, which was more in tune with the tough conditions in the actual competition. Now we can get away with the Home Counties."

The Bowring team has kept fit, but not excessively so. It has been more a case of leading a sensible lifestyle. The training weekends have helped.

Mr Maitland-Jones says: "We go away for three training weekends in the lead-up to the competition and go for runs during the week. We try to produce our own Chal-

lenger-type stages where there will be some logic problems and map-reading and we make it physically demanding. This year we all clicked. We made a good start and we had our share of luck, but we seemed to do well all along. We did not have one bad stage, which is usually the problem."

On example of how a team can get a good start to a stage came when all the teams gathered in the grounds of a college for a mass start at 11.30pm. They were each given an envelope containing a mathematical crossword giving the location they had to get to. Mr Maitland-Jones had spotted a floodlight in one corner of the grounds so the team made use of the light to read the instructions while others were struggling with torches.

The Bowring Broncos finally won by an impressive margin of 40 minutes. It was nearly a double triumph, for the CT Bowring women's team, which won the women's section last year, was pipped by two minutes from scor-



On form: Bowring contestants in the cross-country stretch of this year's event and, below, facing the challenge of the cycling circuit

Fighting spirit that saved the company

Rodney Hobson reports on how Mitel practises the team ethic that it preaches

Teamwork has become the watchword of Mitel, the Canadian company that sponsors the Challengers Trophy. Alan Kirkham, managing director, says the principles that apply in the competition are put into practice at the company.

He says: "Mitel is very much a team-based organisation. What we are trying for is to prove that the sum of the parts is greater than the individual components."

"We believe that behavioural skills are just as important as the technical skills that employees bring to the company. Empowerment is the key to the way to run a business. We seek people who are willing to take the initiative."

Mr Kirkham

says people taking part in the Challengers Trophy would not be able to cope with the physical and mental tests if they operated as individuals. The same principle applies, he believes, to business.

"People do need to understand the strengths that each member brings to the team," he says. "That was what appealed to us when we decided to sponsor the Trophy. The event encourages and develops team skills."

Mr Kirkham says contestants take back new skills to their companies. "It teaches people to work in groups. People are together for the first time. They have got to be open and honest, and to understand the hopes, fears and aspirations of each other."

He says the event blends mental and physical demands. "You have got to have a minimum level of physical fitness as the programme keeps people under fairly continuous pressure. It teaches people how to solve problems at a time of physical pressure."

Mitel has undergone a dramatic transformation from a loss-making

national organisation to a thriving international group. In the early Eighties it looked likely to fold, but a rescue operation kept it afloat. In 1986, British Telecom, newly privatised and looking to become an international player, bought a 51 per cent stake for £167 million.

Mitel produced computerised switchboards, and BT, looking for a way into manufacturing, saw that technology for telecommunications and computers was converging.

Private branch exchanges (PBXs) would therefore become key pieces of office equipment, handling data as well as telephone calls. Mitel was particularly strong in producing smaller PBXs, handling fewer than 100 lines.

Mitel was set up by two former BT technicians after a stint at Northern Telecom in Canada. Although the company returned a profit in the year to March 1989, its performance deteriorated again and, early in 1990, BT put its stake up for sale.

Such was the mess at Mitel that it took two and a half years to find a buyer. BT stood a loss of £16 million. But the removal of the uncertainty that had hung over the company while BT's stake was up for sale proved a turning point.

By mid-1993 sales were improving and Mitel was making its best profits for 11 years. The consortium of investors which had bought the company began to sell shares at a handsome profit.

Mr Kirkham says there is a new spirit at Mitel. "We run our own in-house Challengers Trophy and a large number of staff give up a weekend to take part. They choose to do it and they enjoy it, and derive great personal benefit from it."

"It is not all pressure and being pushed to the edge. I am at the event each year cheering everyone on enthusiastically."

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Organisations have hierarchies, but not Mitel. We have no structure, no tiers of management and no job titles. Instead we have a series of interlinked teams, each dedicated to a single task.

As a result, we work as a single body. That makes us uniquely focused to serve our customers and bring innovative new products to market.

So you can see it is no coincidence that Mitel sponsors the Challengers Trophy where team work is the key to success.

That's good news for customers, bad news for big fish.

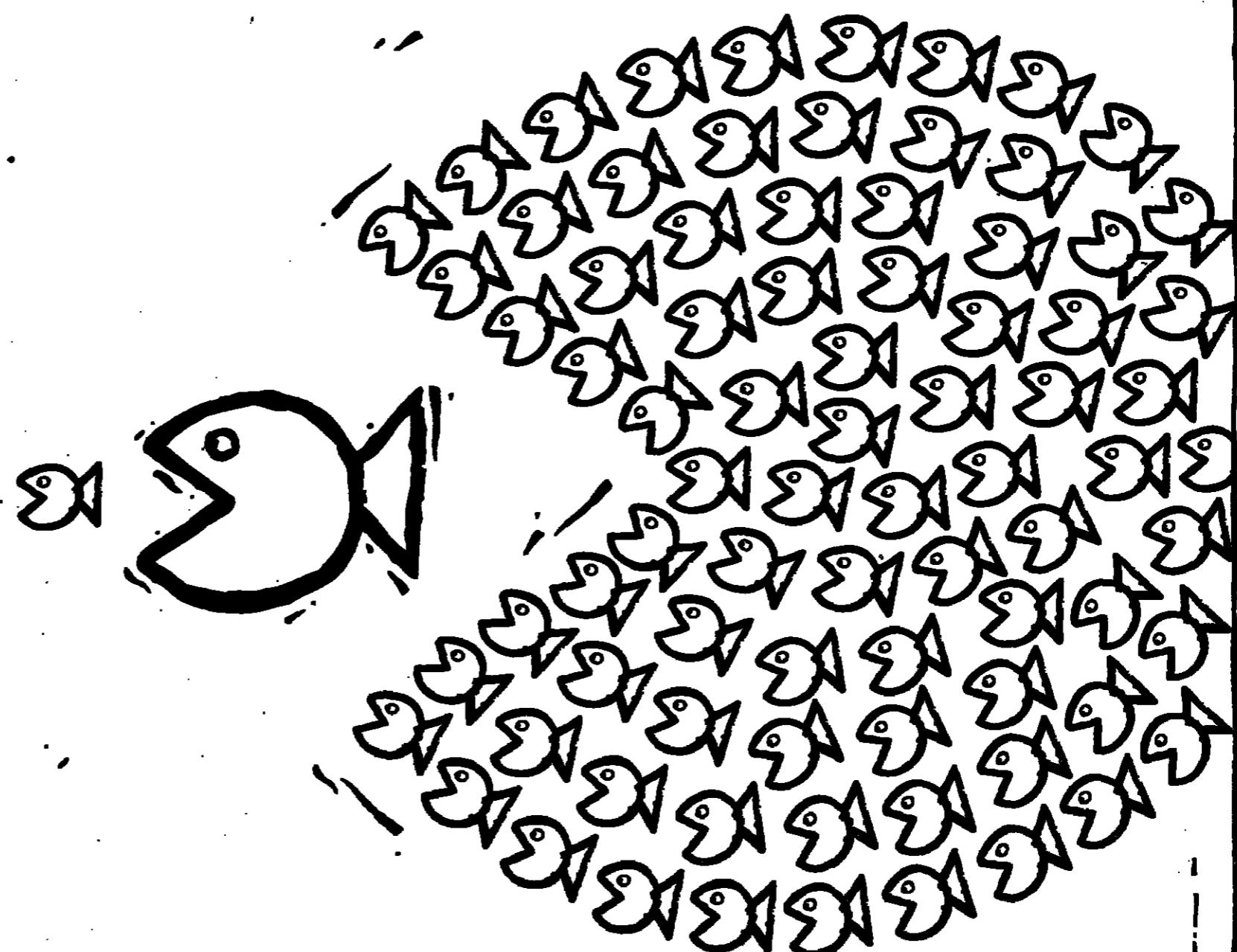
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Ancillary relief within court's discretion

J v S-T (formerly J)

Before Lord Justice Ward, Lord Justice Potter and Sir Brian Neill
(Judgment November 21)

A transsexual male, born a female, who, at the time of undergoing a form of marriage with a female, concealed his true gender from the registrar and the "wife" and knowingly made a false declaration that there was no legal hindrance to the marriage committed the serious crime of perjury, but he was not in any event barred, on the ground of public policy, from pursuing a claim for ancillary relief following the grant of a decree of nullity because of the perjury.

Whether or not he was entitled to pursue his claim for ancillary relief was a matter for the court to decide in the exercise of its discretion under section 25(1) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973. In exercising that discretion it would be legitimate for the court to take account of public policy principles as a guide.

The Court of Appeal, by a majority, Lord Justice Ward, in the result on different grounds, so stated dismissing an appeal by the defendant from the decision of Mr Justice Hollis dated January 25, 1996 that he be debarred from continuing his claim for ancillary relief against the plaintiff on the ground that it was contrary to public policy.

Mr Ben Emmerson for the defendant: Miss Suzanne Coates for the plaintiff.

SIR BRIAN NEILL said that the parties went through a marriage ceremony on July 7, 1977. On July 6, 1994 the plaintiff presented a petition seeking a decree of nullity on the ground that at the date of the marriage ceremony the parties were not respectively male and female.

A previous petition for divorce issued by the plaintiff had already been dismissed by consent on May 26, 1994. The nullity petition was undefended and a decree was granted. The defendant then applied for ancillary relief including an order for periodical payments and a property adjustment order.

The plaintiff challenged the right of the defendant to apply for ancillary relief.

On August 2, 1995, a preliminary issue arose as to whether, following the Court of Appeal decision in *Whiston v Whiston* (1995) Pam 148, the defendant should be debarred from pursuing his claim for ancillary relief on the ground that continuance of the claim

would be contrary to public policy. The trial of the preliminary issue took place before the judge who had before him affidavit evidence and medical reports. In addition he had the oral evidence of the parties and of one witness on each side.

The case for the plaintiff could be shortly stated. It was alleged that the defendant was born a female in 1946 and had undergone a partial sex change by virtue of hormone injections and a bilateral mastectomy in 1972 and 1973, but that the plaintiff had not been aware that the defendant had been born a female until a copy of the defendant's birth certificate was produced at the divorce hearing in May 1994. It was further alleged that by entering into the marriage ceremony, the defendant had committed an offence under section 3 of the Perjury Act 1911.

The allegations that the defendant had committed perjury was based on the declarations which the defendant made in Form 16 which he signed in 1977 when the ceremony took place and in which he described himself as a bachelor and declared: "I solemnly declare that I believe there is no impediment of kindred or alliance or other lawful hindrance to the said marriage..."

At the trial the judge examined in detail the defendant's state of mind with respect to his ability to contract a lawful marriage and also the state of the plaintiff's knowledge of the defendant's physical characteristics and status. On the former, the judge concluded, applying the criminal standard of proof, that "the defendant knew perfectly well that there was a lawful hindrance to his validly marrying the plaintiff".

He based that finding on the following reasoning:

(a) That the defendant knew that in order to be free from marriage he had to complete all three stages of the treatment needed to effect a change of sex, namely hormone treatment, the removal of the female genitalia and a sexual operation.

(b) That the defendant completed the first two stages of the treatment but did not complete the third stage by having an operation to have a false penis.

(c) That accordingly the defendant knew that he was not free to marry and had therefore committed perjury in signing the declaration that there was no lawful hindrance to the marriage.

The judge had concluded that by making the false declaration that there was no lawful hindrance to the marriage the defendant had

committed "a most serious offence".

On the issue as to the plaintiff's knowledge the judge's finding was not altogether clear. It was plain, however, that it was satisfied that it was not until long after the marriage ceremony that she became aware that the defendant was female.

It might well be that the judge accepted that she did not have that knowledge until the discovery of the birth certificate in May 1994. Moreover, it appeared from the judgment that the judge did not think that the plaintiff would have gone through the marriage ceremony had she known the defendant's true gender.

In his Lordship's view the appeal raised three questions:

1 Whether there was sufficient evidence to justify the finding that the defendant had made false declarations and had committed the crime of perjury.

2 Whether by application of the principles applied in *Whiston* or otherwise the defendant's claim for ancillary relief was barred in limine.

3 Whether, notwithstanding the fact that the defendant's claim was not barred in limine, it was bound to fail.

On the first of those questions, his Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Ward and Lord Justice Potter that there was sufficient evidence to justify the judge's conclusion that the defendant knowingly made the false declaration that there was no hindrance to the marriage. In making that false declaration he deceived the registrar as well as the plaintiff in his true gender.

The principal forms of ancillary relief available on the grant of a decree of divorce or nullity were those set out in sections 22, 23 and 24 of the 1973 Act. In each of those sections it was made clear that the power of the court to grant relief was discretionary.

In section 25 of the 1973 Act were set out the grounds to which the court was to have regard in deciding how to exercise its powers under sections 23 and 24.

In the present case, however, the judge decided, notwithstanding the discretionary nature of the power to grant ancillary relief, that the defendant was barred in limine from pursuing his application.

In reaching that conclusion he took account of the fact that, as he found, the defendant had committed a serious crime against the plaintiff and that in those circumstances the principle of public policy which was explained in

Whiston prevented the defendant's application proceeding.

The principles of public policy which were invoked by the judge and by the Court of Appeal in *Whiston* were based on the doctrine that the courts should refuse "to assist a criminal to benefit from his crime at least in serious cases"; see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Paticker* ([1981] QB 167, 175) and the wider doctrine, explained by Lord Justice Ward in his illuminating judgment in the present case that "no court will lend its aid to a man who finds his cause of action upon an immoral or illegal act"; see *Holman v Johnson* (1975) 1 Cw 341, 343. The maxim to be applied had been formulated in Latin as *ex turpi causa non oritur iuris*.

It was to be noted that in *Whiston*:

(a) The case came before the Court of Appeal on an appeal from Mr Justice Thorpe, who in the exercise of his discretion had refused the relief ordered by the district judge to a smaller sum to take account of the applicant's conduct. The Court of Appeal was not there concerned with the trial of a preliminary issue.

(b) The contract of marriage on which the applicant had to rely to found her claim for relief was the *status reus* of the crime of which the applicant was guilty. It was not a case where the marriage had been procured by perjury or by duress. The marriage itself being bigamous was the crime.

(c) Lordship could see the force of the argument that in the present case the marriage was as lacking in substance as in name. His Lordship agreed that a bigamous union was no more remissuous than a union between two persons of the same sex or gender. But Parliament, in empowering the court to entertain applications for ancillary relief, had not distinguished between different categories of void or voidable marriages.

The court was bound by the decision in *Whiston*, but his Lordship did not think that it was necessary to treat *Whiston* as laying down an inflexible rule, even where the court was exercising a discretionary jurisdiction to grant ancillary relief, the fact that

the marriage had been contracted in circumstances which involved the commission of a serious crime debased the guilty party in limine from making a claim.

His Lordship would limit the rule in *Whiston* to cases of bigamy where the marriage itself constituted the criminal act.

His Lordship's explanation for that approach was as follows:

1 In the relevant sections of the 1973 Act dealing with ancillary relief all degrees of perjury appeared to be treated in the same way.

2 Section 25 required the court when exercising its powers under sections 23 and 24 to take account of all the circumstances of the case. That requirement suggested that the scope for the trial of a preliminary issue was very limited.

3 The principle of public policy which could be invoked to bar a claim depended on the establishment of a serious crime by the claimant. In many cases the threshold of seriousness might involve an investigation of all the circumstances, including the effect on the other party and any mitigating factors which might reduce the degree of blame. In a case concerning a transsexual such an investigation might require detailed consideration of the medical treatment and advice which the applicant received over a period.

4 His Lordship had not been persuaded that in a case which involved the exercise of the court's discretion, it was necessary or desirable to carry out a preliminary issue to determine whether one aspect of any applicants conduct before the general merits of the claim were investigated.

5 Although it was clear from the decision of the House of Lords in *Tinsley v Milligan* ([1994] 1 AC 340) that where considerations of public policy intervened to prevent the enforcement of rights claimed under an illegal contract the court was precluded from carrying out a balancing operation, the situation appeared to his Lordship to be different where Parliament itself had conferred a discretion on the court and had included a requirement that the court in exercising that discretion should consider all the circumstances of the case.

For those reasons his Lordship would not decide the preliminary issue on the basis that the defendant was barred in limine from pursuing the claim because by signing the false declaration he had committed a serious crime. Nor would his Lordship bar him by the invocation of the wider doctrine of *ex turpi causa non oritur iuris*.

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the court had indicated that an order should not be made against the grandparents and would have to effect since they had no assets and that an order would be made against the board, who under the standard terms of such an order made objection to it.

Mr Charles Howard for the board: Mrs Deborah Eston for the local authority.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS referred to section 18 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 and to the supplemental provisions in Order 62, rule 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, in particular rule 11(4), which required legal representative to have a reasonable opportunity to show cause why a wasted costs order should not be made, and the primary argument in favour of the application against the board that the appeal should never have been brought.

He said that where the general rule applied, section 18 in the case of an appeal gave rise to little difficulty. The unassisted party who succeeded could usually recover from the board costs which he could not recover from the assisted party.

In cases involving children the position was complicated by the fact that the court did not attach the same significance to which party was successful, recognising that as its primary concern was the child's welfare it was often in appropriate to determine questions of costs by merely asking who had won: see *Keller v Keller* ([1993] 1 FLR 259), *Gokovic v Gokovic* ([1992] Fam 40) and *Sutton LBC v Davis* ([1994] WLR 317).

On appeal the approach was similar, but subject to an important qualification that those who participated in litigation in the Court of Appeal involving the future of children had to be prepared for the appellate court to take the view that while it was reasonable for them to play an active part in proceedings at first instance it was not so on appeal. If that was the position they had to be prepared for an order for costs to be made against them.

Nevertheless, his Lordship was satisfied that on the facts no court could, in the proper exercise of its discretion, grant ancillary relief of the kind claimed by the defendant.

It was at that stage that the conduct of the defendant at the time of the marriage, when judged by principles of public policy, brought down the scales overwhelmingly against the grant of any relief.

Accordingly, his Lordship was satisfied that on the facts no court could, in the proper exercise of its discretion, grant ancillary relief of the kind claimed by the defendant.

Whether the court was prepared to make an order could be decisive in determining whether an order should be made against the board under section 18. However, under section 18(3) all that was required was that consideration was given to whether to make an order against the board.

Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Leggett agreed with his Lordship.

Solicitors: Tyndallwood, Edgbaston; Thomas Eggar Vernal Bowles, Horsham.

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| Mid cap | Company | Price | Wk | Yld | PE | Mid cap | Company | Price | Wk | Yld | PE | Mid cap | Company | Price | Wk | Yld | PE | Mid cap | Company | Price | Wk | Yld | PE |
|----------------------------|---------|-------|----|------|----|-------------------|---------|-------|----|------|----|-----------------------|---------|-------|-----|------|------------------------|---------|---------|-------|------|-----|----|
| ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 310.00 Harvester | 672.00 | 10 | 22 | 19.2 | | 310.00 Harvester | 672.00 | 10 | 22 | 19.2 | | 705.00 Mondelez Int'l | 615.00 | -7 | 20 | 47.2 | 680.00 Cadbury | 610.00 | -6 | 16 | 6.6 | | |
| 4,251.40 Adnams | 442.00 | -12 | 53 | 12.5 | | 210.00 The Cellar | 500.00 | -3 | 52 | 16.2 | | 54.70 Mondelez Int'l | 51.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 9,236.00 British Beer | 600.00 | +16 | 44 | 12.5 | | 22.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 44.00 Mondelez Int'l | 42.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 10.00 British Beer | 530.00 | -3 | 31 | 17.1 | | 23.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 5,010.00 Breweries A | 675.00 | +16 | 54 | 12.5 | | 24.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 6,673.00 Breweries B | 485.00 | -5 | 45 | 10.6 | | 25.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 4,928.00 Heublein | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 26.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 2,020.00 Heublein | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 27.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein B | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 28.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein C | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 29.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein D | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 30.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein E | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 31.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein F | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 32.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein G | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 33.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein H | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 34.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein I | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 35.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein J | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 36.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein K | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 37.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein L | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 38.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein M | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 39.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein N | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 40.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein O | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 41.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein P | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 42.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein Q | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 43.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein R | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 44.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein S | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 45.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein T | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 46.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein U | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 47.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein V | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 48.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein W | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 49.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein X | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 50.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein Y | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 51.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| 1,010.00 Heublein Z | 570.00 | -12 | 52 | 12.5 | | 52.00 Carlsberg | 500.00 | -1 | 52 | 12.5 | | 12.00 Mondelez Int'l | 11.00 | -1 | 4.9 | | 1,025.00 British Sugar | 975.00 | -1 | 21 | 15.2 | | |
| BANKS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17,224.00 ABN AMRO | 360.00 | +10 | 35 | 14.5 | | 7.00 BNP Paribas | 354.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Applied Holographics, Field Group, Filofax, FirstBus, JU Group, Jupiter Geared Capital, Marfing Industries, Mervyns, Culligotti, RM, Christian Salvesen, Sketchley, South Staffordshire Water, Trinity Care, Wynnstan Properties, Finals: Abacus Polar, Ashbourne, ML Laboratories, National Home Loans, Economic statistics: EU foreign ministers meeting; EU consumer affairs ministers meeting; US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: Amber Industrial, British Biotech (q2), Bristol United Press, Indian Hotels, Kewill Systems, Meyer International, Mid Kent Holdings, New London Capital, Northamer, Randfontein Estates, Vendome Luxury Group, Finals: Crabtree Group, Finsbury Properties, Tate & Lyle, Wimborne Property Management, Economic statistics: Chancellor of Exchequer presents UK budget to the House of Commons; source gift auction details; US November consumer confidence; US Treasury announces allocation of short-term T-bills.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Amber Industrial, British Biotech (q2), Bristol United Press, Indian Hotels, Kewill Systems, Meyer International, Mid Kent Holdings, New London Capital, Northamer, Randfontein Estates, Vendome Luxury Group, Finals: Crabtree Group, Finsbury Properties, Tate & Lyle, Wimborne Property Management, Economic statistics: UK September world trade, October non-EU trade; US weekly jobless claims; US preliminary third quarter GDP; US October durable orders; US bond market closes early.

THURSDAY

Interims: BPB, Bristol United Press, British Gas (q3), Brockhampton Holdings, BSES, Caledonia Investments, Castings, CPL Aromas, Edcon Europe, Hargreaves Investors, Fortis (q3), Hanson, Johnson Matthey, ML Holdings, Neepend, Old English Pub, Southern Electric, Stagecoach, Sutcliffe Speakman, 3i Group, Triasis, United Utilities, Videologic, VTR, Finals: Centrica, Edinburgh Income Trust, Marx & Overseas, Royal Bank of Scotland, Standard Bank, UK Scottish Investment Trust, Economic statistics: UK October British Bankers Association monthly mortgage lending; US Thanksgiving public holiday; French q3 preliminary gross domestic product.

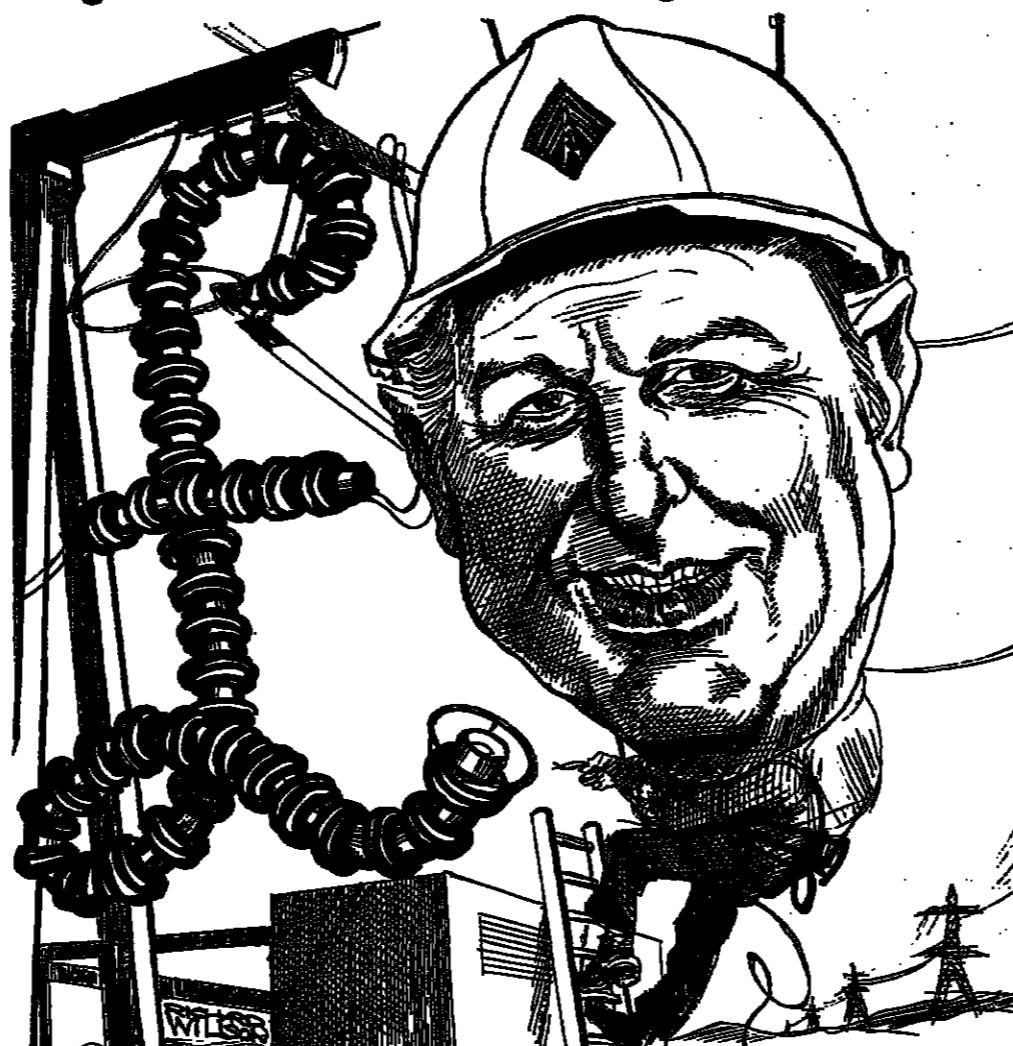
FRIDAY

Interims: Bournemouth & West Hampshire Water, Cantab Pharmaceuticals (q3), James Latham, Monks Investment Trust, TR Property Investment Trust, Yorkshire Water, Finals: Fenchurch, Henderson Strata Investments, H Young Holdings, Economics: UK October final M4; UK October consumer credit; US October personal income, expenditure.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Tate & Lyle needs payout sweetener



David Jefferies, National Grid chairman, reveals how he coped with tougher pricing guidelines

TATE & LYLE: Only an increase in the final dividend of 7 per cent to 17.1p will sweeten the pill for shareholders when the group unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. NatWest Securities, the broker, expects a drop in pre-tax profits from £311.1 million to £28.5 million, with earnings per share down from 42.9p to 38.2p. The setback will stem from the group's North American operations, where profits are likely to be down about 34 per cent at £113 million. Prices at Staley, its high fructose corn syrup producer, have collapsed as a result of capacity outstripping demand.

The only bright spot is likely to be sugar production, where prices have risen sharply because of poor beet crops and the introduction of anti-dumping legislation in Canada.

BRITISH GAS: A further loss is expected when the group unveils third-quarter figures on Thursday. Estimates pitch net losses at between £128 million and £150 million, compared with £180 million last time. Loss per share ranges from 5p to 3.4p. The third quarter is traditionally the group's quietest. The losses will certainly make little impression on brokers who want information about the progress of take-or-pay contracts and whether a demerger of the business is planned. They may also quiz the group on reports of a merger with Shell.

VENDOME: The strong pound and weakened Swiss franc are likely to play havoc with half-year figures from the luxury goods group when it unveils half-year figures on Wednesday. Profits will be ahead in terms of Swiss francs, but once converted into sterling the outcome is likely to be less buoyant with Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, forecasting flat pre-tax profits of £122 million (£119 million). The weak Swiss franc will flatten operating margins but sales will be hit by a weak yen, which has affected the spending power of Japanese tourists in the Far East. Demand in Europe also remains depressed.

The second half is unlikely to show much scope for improvement and brokers have already downgraded their year-end numbers to about £265 million.

NATIONAL GRID: The group comes under the spotlight when

David Jefferies, the chairman, unveils half-year figures tomorrow. These will be the first results published since the regulator imposed his tough pricing proposals. They come into force next year, when the formula of RPI+4 per cent is applied.

There is to be a 9 per cent increase in the payout to 4.45p. Profits at the pre-tax level should have grown from £278.9 million to £304 million, an increase of 9 per cent. Earnings growth is likely to be around 8 per cent, at 17.1p a share. Much of the improvement is expected to be achieved by increased efficiency and cost-cutting.

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC: The

regulator's influence will also be detected in half-year figures from

the group on Thursday. Southern is the first of the regional electricity companies to report on the effects of the second distribution review. This time round, pre-tax profits are expected to be down from £17.8 million to £11.1 million, although the impact on profits of the second review, it is hoped, will be minimal. The figures are also likely to reflect the impact of the abortive bid for Southern Water. Even so, there should be scope for an increase in the payout of 12 per cent to 11.8p.

SEVERN TRENT: It may be too early for the group to decide its next course of action after the decision of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to block its bid for South West Water. But

half-year figures tomorrow will

still attract plenty of attention, with pre-tax profits set to grow from £189 million to £211 million despite the burden of purchasing extra supplies to pump across its drought stricken region.

One of the best performances should come from Biffa Waste Services. A strong balance sheet will enable the group to increase the payout by 11 per cent to 10.25p.

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN: Interim figures today may provide the group with one of the last opportunities to prove itself, with rival Hays still ready to pounce with a takeover bid. Pre-tax profits are expected to be up from £44.3 million to £47 million after a strong recovery in food services and a solid performance from Aggreko, which benefited from

extra profits from its

strong long-term growth.

JOHNSON MATTHEY: After falling precious metal prices and a depressed electronics market in Europe, the group will have had a hard six months. Nevertheless, pre-tax profits should rise by about £5 million to £52 million. The dividend will increase by 9 per cent to almost 5p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

City expects cagey Budget

The British economic week will inevitably be dominated by the Budget tomorrow. The City is expecting a cautious package, with net tax cuts of less than £3 billion. A Reuter poll of 27 economists last week showed that, on average, net tax cuts of £2.5 billion are expected, with a 1p cut in the basic rate of income tax paid for with matching spending cuts.

Economists also believe that October's unexpectedly large £4.4 billion repayment of public borrowing means that the Chancellor will be able to cut his forecast for this year's public sector borrowing requirement from £26.9 billion to £26 billion, and the PSBR for 1997-98 from £21 billion to £21 billion.

After the Budget there will be few British statistics this week. On Wednesday, September figures for trade with the rest of the world, including the EU, are expected to show a deficit of £11 billion, compared with a shortfall in August of £58 million, according to the City consensus compiled by MMS International.

On the same day, October figures for Britain's trade with non-European Union countries is predicted to show a deficit of £875 million, compared with a trade gap of £851 million in September. On Friday, there are figures for consumer credit in October, expected to show that demand for credit continued to be strong — at about the levels seen in September.

In America, home sales and consumer confidence news are due today and tomorrow respectively, but the first real focus of the financial markets will be Wednesday's preliminary snapshot of third-quarter growth. Gross domestic product is expected to have grown by 2.2 per cent in the third quarter, representing a sharp slowdown from the 4.7 per cent growth of the second.

These are particularly important numbers as the markets try to judge whether there is any pressure for a rise in American interest rates. On the same day, durable goods orders are published, followed on Friday by personal income and spending data for October.

JANET BUSH

Sunday Times: Buy Babcock International, Grantchester, Celtic FC, Hay & Robertson, Access Plus; Avoid Full Circle.

Sunday Telegraph: Buy Chiroscience; Hold Mid Kent Holdings; Sell West 175 Enterprises. **The Observer:** Buy Guinness, Northern Foods, Independent on Sunday; Buy Capital Radio, Fibernet; Hold PowerGen; **Mail on Sunday:** Buy Persona, Guinness; Sell Country Gardens, Widney.

Cowie venture shortlisted for Thameslink

By CLARE STEWART

GREAT LONDON Railways, a joint venture between Cowie, the quoted transport group, and the management of ThameLink Rail, has been shortlisted for the Thameslink rail franchise.

ThameLink, the service that

operates across central London connecting Bedford and Brighton, is one of the last regions to be privatised. Passenger revenue for the year to March totalled £76 million.

Virgin Rail Group and Go-Ahead, the bus company based in Newcastle upon Tyne, which is bidding in

partnership with Via-GT, a French transport group, have also been shortlisted. The fourth contender has yet to be revealed.

The shortlisted groups have to submit a final bid in January and a preferred bidder is likely to be announced in February. Transfer of the

service to the successful group is expected in March.

Cowie Group, which spans bus businesses and car dealerships, last month saw its takeover of British Bus referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. On Friday its shares rose 7.2p, to 369.5p.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 43

PORTLY (c) Otter's small son from Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*. He went missing, and was found by Ratty and Mole carelessly asleep in the arms of the Great God Pan.

BLATANT BEAST

(a) In Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, (books V, VI) "a dreadful fiend of gods and men, ydread; the type of calumny and slander. He was born of Cerberus and Chimera, and had a hundred tongues and a sting. The word *blatant* seems to have been coined by Spenser. It is probably from the provincial word *blate* = to bellow.

M TURK

(b) The three naughty schoolboys in Kipling's *Stalky & Co* were Stalky (Lieutenant Charles D'Orville, later General), Beedle (Kipling himself) and M TURK (Major George Charles Eastwood, an Irish schoolboy of Kipling at the United Services College, Westward Ho, Devon). "M TURK" later went to India as a civil engineer and subsequently became a photographer and antique dealer in London.

TADPOLE AND TAPER

(a) These two steady characters are party wire-pullers, spin doctors and lobbyists in Disraeli's *Coningsby* and *Sybil*. They show the two parts of a trilogy of which *Tancred* is the third. They show that in politics *plus ca change, plus cest la Greve*.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxd7 Rxd7 2 Rxf7 Kh7 3 Be4+ g6 4 Rxf7 Bxf7 5 Bxf7 Qxd7 (otherwise White will win easily on material) 6 Rxf7 checkmate. Black, in fact, resigned before being shown this.

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and mobile telephones

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and telephone boxes

and telephone lines

and telephone cables

and telephone poles

and telephone poles</p

Lloyd's piles on pressure in fight with non-payers

By JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London will this week launch its toughest offensive yet, in the drive to recoup up to £500 million from recalcitrant names.

Bankruptcy orders and charges over property are among weapons at the disposal of Lloyd's, which is intent on sending a clear signal to non-payers. The first cases are due in court by mid-December.

A stream of names have approached Lloyd's for discussions since the first Writs were lodged at the High Court in October. Tony Gooda, the controversial underwriter, and Robin Kingsley, chairman of the Lime Street Agency, were among more than 50 names facing claims for more than £1 million each. Some 874 writs, relating to more than £200 million, have been issued, covering names in the UK, Canada and the US.

TUC backs top-up pensions

By ROBERT MILLER

THE TUC is today expected to support the Labour Party's proposals for a second-tier pension to top up the basic state payout.

John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, in his address to a TUC pensions conference in London, will unveil plans for a year-long investigation by the unions into the future of pensions and how "we can move towards our goal of ensuring that all workers have access to a decent second pension in addition to their basic state pension."

One idea floated last week by John Denham, Shadow Pensions Minister, was the possibility of a "stakeholder pension". Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, is expected to give more details of the stakeholder plan.

Mr Monks says: "Our investigation, which will be reported to next year's congress, will consider a wide range of issues and options available." These could include a special new National Savings scheme.



Colin Alton, the chief executive of PatientLine, demonstrates one of his company's television and telephone systems to Suzanne Robinson, a patient at Northwick Park Hospital, in Harrow, Middlesex. Mercury Private Equity, the venture capital division of Mercury Asset Management, has invested £6.3 million in PatientLine, which supplies the systems for installation and rental within hospital wards. The systems are operated by smartcard.

Businessman branded copycat

By JON ASHWORTH

A COURT battle is looming over the activities of a Cheshire businessman who appears to have "cornered the market" in top brand names.

Richard Branson's Virgin Group is among companies taking action against Brandon Pyatt of Warrington, who has been linked with dozens of famous names, including Umbro, Nike and Coco Cha-

nel. Virgin won an injunction against Mr Pyatt, 41, after he advertised for agents to sell Virgin Jeans. The venture is unconnected with Virgin, which plans to launch its own range of jeans next year and wants a permanent block on the use of the name.

Records at Companies House show that Mr Pyatt is a current or former director of

more than 70 limited companies, including Newcastle United Sportswear, The Armani Jeans Company, Reebok Clothing Company, Hugo Boss and Coco Chanel. He runs a company formation business, Plan B International, and says he was instructed to register up to 40 famous names by a client who then refused to pay him.

Pension funds switch into cash

By CLARE STEWART

UK pension funds are taking a more bearish stance on investments and switching more of their portfolios from equities to cash.

According to the latest quarterly survey from WM Company, a firm that analyses pension fund performance, funds have, over the first three quarters of 1996, increased cash holdings by £5.6 billion. The main source for this cash, says WM Company, is the sale of £6.9 billion of equities.

Between 1992 and 1996, the proportion of pension fund assets invested in equities has declined from 58 per cent to 52 per cent. Chris Boston, a director of WM, said: "What stands out this year is how much of the money raised from the sale of equities is being held in cash rather than being reinvested elsewhere."

WM estimated that there may be more than £10 billion held in cash by pension funds, "perhaps ready for reinvestment in UK equities when fund managers feel the time is right".

Analysis of the asset mix of pension funds shows that, at present, equities make up 52.4 per cent, down from 54.9 per cent last year. Also down are holdings of US equities, from 4.4 per cent in 1995 to 3.8 per cent at present.

The "safer havens" of cash and index-linked investments have drawn more business. Cash holdings have risen from 4 per cent to 5.2 per cent, and index-linked investments are up from 3 per cent to 4.8 per cent.

The change, says WM, indicates more bearish expectations rather than reaction to an election and possible change of government. "The prospect of a Labour government has already been built into current valuations," it says.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6810 (+0.0149)
German mark
2.5254 (+0.0124)
Exchange index
92.5 (+0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2810.5 (+34.7)
FTSE 100
4018.7 (+60.5)
New York Dow Jones
6471.76 (+123.73)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg
21216.11 (+286.38)

Open season for ITV franchises

Carlton's move will flush out bidders for TV companies, says Eric Reguly

Carlton's last-minute lunge at Westcountry Television has set the stage for a bid battle for remaining ITV franchises.

Carlton, where Michael Green is chairman, surprised United News & Media on Friday by agreeing to pay £85 million in cash for Westcountry, the privately held ITV company in Devon and Cornwall. Lord Holliek, the United chairman, was confident that United's £80 million offer was high enough to secure the deal.

The fierce competition for Westcountry — Carlton and United were two of four bidders — provides a strong indication that ITV companies, regardless of their size and performance, have become hot properties. The new Broadcasting Act triggered the takeover frenzy by scrapping the two-licence ownership limit. TV companies can now own as many franchises as they like as long as the total portfolio does not exceed 15 per cent of the national audience.

The next moves will see Carlton, Granda and United, the biggest ITV companies, attempt to consolidate their positions by snapping up the independent operators. But there may be some surprises. The Barclay brothers, who own *The Scotsman* and the *European* newspapers, are thought to be keen to move into television.

The remaining takeover

long-term investors. In City slang, their holdings are thought to be "loose".

The Mirror may be willing to sell its Scottish Television stake because, under the Broadcasting Act, newspaper groups with more than 20 per cent of the national circulation cannot boost their TV holdings. The Mirror, with about 23 per cent of newspaper circulation, would have to sell one or two of its papers to get below the 20 per cent level.

Flextech may be willing to its Scottish Television stake simply because it needs the money. Flextech recently signed a joint venture with the BBC to launch a series of BBC-themed subscription channels. Developing and promoting them will cost Flextech an estimated £150-£200 million. It has about £40 million in cash and could fund the rest by selling its Scottish Television holding. At current market prices, that stake is worth about £150 million.

The takeover plays in the rest of the sector will be more predictable. United owns 20 per cent of HTV, the ITV company in the West of England and Wales, and probably will buy the rest. Granda owns 27 per cent of Yorkshire Tyne Tees TV, making it all but impossible for a rival to buy it, and if Scottish Television manages to retain its independence, it is expected to buy Grampian Television in the North of Scotland.



Green: surprise move

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EVERY FRIDAY 51

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HSBC is largest UK firm as Gas takes fall

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

HSBC Holdings, the financial services group that owns Midland Bank, emerges as Britain's biggest company in the 1997 edition of *The Times 1000*, which is published today.

But British Gas, ranked first in the previous edition, has been demoted to tenth place, reflecting the wide-ranging problems that have undermined the utility over the past year.

HSBC, formerly domiciled in Hong Kong but now based in London, takes first place in the list of the UK's top 1,000 companies, with capital employed of £24.15 billion. It was previously third.

In second place is Shell Transport and Trading, UK arm of the Royal Dutch-Shell oil and gas combine. With net assets of £21.9 billion, Shell is narrowly ahead of British Petroleum, which has capital employed of £21.2 billion.

The decline of British Gas follows a reduction in capital employed to £12.8 billion, from £24.6 billion previously. The company faces difficulties on a number of fronts.

No fewer than 21 of Britain's top 100 companies are in the financial sector, with Abbey National, Barclays, National Westminster and Halifax Building Society joining HSBC in the top ten.

America and Japan again dominate the list of the world's top 50 industrial companies. General Electric, of the US, is ranked first, with capital employed of £84.16 billion.

Royal Dutch Shell is Europe's highest representative, ranked fifth, with capital employed of £54.75 billion. Just two other companies with UK interests, BP and British Telecom, enter the top 50.

The Times 1000, 1997 edition, published by Times Books, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JB. Price £40.00



Tony Hewitt hopes the market launch of Parkwood Holdings, which has £58 million in orders, will raise up to £6 million

Government plans audit of UK educational science base

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is to mount an audit of Britain's science base in a fresh attempt to improve the UK's economic competitiveness.

The move follows a warning on the issue from leaders of one of Britain's best performing industries.

The science audit, driven initially by concern about the pharmaceutical industry in Britain, will be a central component of the Government's fourth annual White Paper on Competitiveness, which the Conservatives will

the forthcoming general election, will be published next year by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister.

But before then, the Government has come under strong pressure rapidly to address mounting problems in Britain's science base after leaders of the pharmaceutical industry – widely regarded as one of the UK's best – made clear to ministers their concerns about its competitive future, primarily because of Government cuts in science provision.

In private talks with Mr Heseltine and his officials, a number of leading companies in the sector, such as Glaxo Wellcome, have already made clear their concerns that the UK's competitive advantage in areas such as pharmaceuticals is being eroded.

In a direct criticism of Treasury cuts, which will increase the opposition of some Treasury officials to the whole process of the competitiveness White Papers, industry leaders have attacked what

they see as the inadequate and declining provision made by the Government for universities' capital expenditure.

They say that this has led to the sharp deterioration of the quantity and quality of science equipment available in universities.

This in turn leads to the science graduates the universities are producing – at a time when their numbers are falling anyway – being almost unfamiliar with technology, analytical tools and instruments used in research and

Parkwood value put at £15m

By PAUL DURMAN

PARKWOOD HOLDINGS, a company that looks after parks and graveyards for local authorities, is forecasting that it will make just under £1 million this year as it prepares to join the stock market.

Pre-tax profits would have been higher at about £1.25 million but for losses on a forestry management business that Parkwood discontinued last July, one year after buying it. Parkwood is seeking damages from the vendor of Prospect Forestry.

Parkwood hopes to raise between £5-£6 million when it joins the full market next month. It is expected to command a value of up to £15 million. Tony Hewitt, Parkwood's chief executive, said it has forward orders of more than £58 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

United Water closer to Sydney flotation

THAMES WATER, the UK utility, and France's Compagnie Générale des Eaux are considering the flotation of United Water, their Australian joint venture, on the stock market in Sydney. The two companies have hired Macquarie Bank to produce an independent report into the best way of bringing in Australian investors and are set to make a decision within the next three weeks. Stephane Richer, managing director of United Water, said: "We are committed to opening up the equity to Australian investors. The intention is for United Water to become 60 per cent owned by Australian interests. United Water was set up early this year to operate an A\$1.5 billion (about £750 million) 15-year contract to manage South Australia's water and waste water operations. It will also work with the South Australian Government to compete for big water infrastructure projects in Asia.

Thames Water and Compagnie Générale des Eaux each has a 47.5 per cent stake in the venture with the remaining 5 per cent held by Australian Kinbill, an Australian engineering company. A flotation could raise funds for investment by United Water in Asia, where it is shortlisted for infrastructure projects in Manila and Jakarta.

Opec set to peg quotas

MEMBERS of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) are expected to leave output quotas unchanged at this week's ministerial talks in Vienna, beginning on Wednesday. The 11-member oil producers' group is widely expected to make no changes in its 25.03 million barrels per day production ceiling and to roll over current quotas in spite of high prices and increased demand for its crude. The formal quotas, which are regularly breached by Opec members, have not been altered since September 1993.

Hambro bid for RPT

HAMBRO Countrywide, the estate agency and financial services company, has launched an agreed takeover bid for RPT Management services, worth £8.4 million. Based in Finchley, north London, RPT is involved in residential property investment and management in an area where Hambro is not currently represented. Hambro has received irrevocable undertakings to accept its offer of 11p per share in cash in respect of 51.9 per cent of RPT, whose shareholders will receive the interim dividend payment of 1.5p.

'Snowball' leads to jail

A GERMAN businessman who ran money circulation schemes similar to Titan, which is believed to have cost 12,000 UK investors more than £17 million, has been jailed for four years. Joachim Appel, who ran the Life schemes, was found guilty of tax evasion and "organising an illegal game". Between 1992 and 1995, Herr Appel operated a "snowball" system, where participants paid DM6500 to become eligible to receive a cut from the joining fee paid by new participants. Herr Appel said that he intends to appeal.

Watchdogs gather

FINANCIAL watchdogs from 18 nations today start a two-day meeting in London to seek to prevent another scandal in the raw materials trade such as the Sumitomo affair. The meeting, at a secret venue, is being run by the UK's Securities and Investments Board and America's Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Japan's Ministry of International Trade will take part, as will agencies from emerging markets and countries producing raw materials. The agenda includes surveillance and the design of futures contracts.

How Chancellor has scope to deliver the goods tomorrow

Kenneth Clarke's Budget tomorrow looks set to be a beacon of political ingenuity amid the muddle of Conservative infighting. The Chancellor has probably carved himself space to deliver both a PSBR well below the £20 billion or so desired by the market, and tax cuts considerably greater than the 1p off basic rate leaked this month.

The reason is that the Treasury's usual pre-Budget misinformation machine has been working hard to convince everyone that there is little room for manoeuvre. Last week's excellent October PSBR data almost gave the game away, but the Treasury

quickly issued gloomy briefings to dampen tax cut hopes. In reality, the Chancellor has probably carved himself space to deliver both a PSBR well below the £20 billion or so desired by the market, and tax cuts considerably greater than the 1p off basic rate leaked this month.

At the key EDX committee meeting on November 5, the spending ministers reportedly agreed to an expenditure Control Total of about £266.7 billion for the 1997/8 fiscal year. Although less than previously pencilled in, this would still represent a

rise of approaching £7 billion on the current year's plan. The press reports of this meeting gloomily concluded that tax cuts equivalent to 1p were all that would be possible.

A glance at data on government finances so far available for the current year, 1996/7, casts doubt on this conclusion.

Both revenues and underlying expenditure are running above plan, by about 2.5 per cent. Since the overshoot on both sides is similar, the PSBR itself looks broadly on target. However, the implication is that the leaked £266.7 billion Control Total for next year would represent an increase on this year's outlays of much less than £7 billion. In other words, the EDX committee may have agreed a squeeze on public spending that is tougher than press reports suggested.

Meanwhile, the revenue over-run gives a higher starting point for next year. Putting these figures together, Mr Clarke should be able to present a Budget with a PSBR of, say, about £18 billion, including tax cuts of some £4 billion.

Market reaction would depend on whether this cut in borrowing were seen to be soundly based on a genuine spending squeeze.

If it is viewed as credible, there should be a favourable response, with current expectations of rate increases being toned down.

The Budget is likely to take place amid growing speculation about a new rate cut by the Bundesbank. The latest German data shows the equivocal nature of the recovery, with bank lending and orders softening, and price inflation staying very low. At the same time, Stability Pact negotiations may well be on target for a deal at the Dublin summit next month. All this would help to reduce expectations of UK rate increases.

The bad news in all this is for UK corporates. I already caught out by a rise in sterling. If the Budget has the broad shape outlined here, there will be a setback in the pound as UK rates are seen rising by less. However, gathering news of a German easing would soon offset this and might restore sterling to an uptrend. The fundamental reason is that continental Europe, hastening to meet the Maastricht criteria, is set for a 1997 of big deficit cuts. Its policy mix is firmly set on tight fiscal, easy money. To hold sterling down, Mr Clarke would have to tighten at least as much as the Continent, if not more due to the stronger growth currently enjoyed by the UK. The PSBR figure outlined above would, at best, be barely enough to do this.

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Costume drama in light and darker guise

Oh, my boots and breeches — so much period drama and so little space. Peasants and pitchforks at the ready? Stocks stacked? Then I'll begin.

There was not much wrong with *Emma* (ITV) that a long Christmas lunch wouldn't have put right. A warm sense of overfed wellbeing was just what was needed to help us to overlook the thinness and essential silliness of the plot, while a glass or two of red wine might have soothed the mild attacks of bilious contempt that churned every time a coach and four came to a snowy halt outside a brightly lit window. Mind you, that still left the dream sequences to cope with. If you hadn't got to the brandy by the time Frank Churchill's portrait morphed into the man himself, you were in trouble. It was scary.

But even on the last Sunday of November there was much to recommend it, not least of which was the chance to consume this

latest adaptation of Jane Austen at one sitting. Unlike *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma* simply doesn't have the story to sustain interest over a longer period. It is a delightful trifle, a not very elaborate conundrum concoction. Who will Miss Woodhouse marry? Well, you've got two guesses: neither one of whom spells disaster. Not exactly the stuff of which suspense is made, is it?

Diarmaid Lawrence, the director, tried to throw us off the scent with a confusing succession of admiring glances. Miss Woodhouse (Katie Beckinsale) admired Frank Churchill (Raymond Coulthard) who admired her back but still sneaked enough glances at Jane Fairfax (Olivia Williams) to make it pretty clear to anybody but our self-absorbed heroine where his true affections lay.

Miss Fairfax glanced at nobody — she was that sort of girl — but, when he wasn't taking stones out

of horses' hooves and other good deeds, she got the once or twice over from the saintly Mr Knightley (Mark Strong) as well as from the progressively caddish Churchill. Harriet Smith (Samantha Morton) glanced at anybody in breeches — she was that sort of a girl. Desperate.

But, long before we got to Austen's *Very Nearly As You Like It* finale, it was clear who was intended for whom. Which left plenty of time for singing, dancing and general a-wassailing.

In the title role, Beckinsale followed the modern vogue for... well, for making period heroines rather modern, and charmingly got away with it. As Churchill, Coulthard dashed to good effect, while as the benevolent Knightley, Strong was good to dashing effect. Austen's rather heavy-handed humour was lightly dealt with by Bernard Hepton as

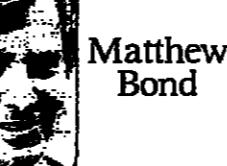
the perennially anxious Mr Woodhouse, by Prunella Scales at the loquacious Miss Bates and by Lucy Robinso as the gashly Mrs Elton — even if at times her accent seemed to hail from a few thousand miles further west than Bristol. What else? Oh yes, Samantha Bond was outstanding as Mrs Weston... sorry, had to get it in somewhere.

Over on BBC1, Rupert Graves was also being pretty outstanding as *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* came to a close — and I'm not related to him at all. Helped by some clever acting leeches, Huntington's gradual disintegration and eventual demise gave Graves the chance to show there was more to the gashly man than lots of shouting. He took it well.

Quite when this disintegration was taking place was less clear, as by part three of this adaptation of Anne Bronte's novel the narrative structure had become a trifle confused. Was it Helen Graham's diary that was still telling the story or Helen herself? Who knows — but when Gilbert Markham (Toby Stephens) went off to rescue her, the biggest danger he seemed to face was bumping into himself coming back.

Thankfully, the darkness of last week's instalments had lifted just enough for this concluding part to resemble a succession of perfectly

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

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All of which leaves me with

Presidents to exchange visits

Clinton steers clear of human rights in talks with Jiang

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN MANILA

THE leaders of America and China decided yesterday to visit each other's country during the next two years — but agreed on little else except that their relationship is important for global peace and stability.

President Clinton and President Jiang Zemin, both of whom are seeking status as international statesmen, met before today's start of the 18-leader Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum at Subic in the Philippines. They said that Vice-President Al Gore would go to Peking in the first half of next year and that presidential visits would take place before the end of 1998.

George Bush, Mr Clinton's predecessor, visited China in 1989 before the Tiananmen pro-democracy protests were suppressed violently. Mr Jiang has been to Seattle, for an earlier Apec meeting, where he first met Mr Clinton.

Their 85-minute discussion yesterday took place in a fortified bank building, built by Ferdinand Marcos, the late Philippines leader, to protect the national treasury, and regarded as a secure venue in a violent city where restaurant signs invite guests to check in their guns at the door.

During last week's visit to

Manila, riot police yesterday blocked a highway north of here to prevent a convoy of left-wing protesters from travelling to Subic to disrupt today's summit of the Asia-Pacific leaders (Abby Tan writes).

Summit leaders are to formally approve a blueprint to create the world's largest free trade zone — encompassing 58 per cent of the world economy — by 2020.

Peking by Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, it was determined that there would be no tense moments between the two men. Mr Christopher made clear the new American policy of constructive engagement meant that Peking would no longer be treated as a human-rights pariah. Winston Lord, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia, agreed yesterday that although human rights "is a very important question", no names of political prisoners, such as Wei Jingheng and Wang Dan, were mentioned by Mr Clinton.

Mike Jendrzejczyk, the Washington-based director of Human Rights Watch/Asia, said earlier: "In his eagerness to announce a US-Asia summit, Clinton seems to be on the

A US Administration source drew attention to the muted American reaction to the recent jailing for 11 years of Wang Dan, the Tiananmen leader, saying: "A couple of days later [the Chinese] said they were rethinking their sales to Iran."

The Presidents agreed to disagree on all important points. Taiwan was barely mentioned. On Chinese entry to the World Trade Organisation, control of which is an American trump card, they agreed on flexibility.

The meeting had a bizarre moment. China usually gives pandas to world leaders with whom it wishes to get on. Yesterday Mr Jiang gave evidence of the remains of a crashed Second World War B24 bomber and its crew. The Chinese called it an outstanding example of goodwill.



President Ramos greets President Clinton at the state palace in Manila yesterday before today's Apec summit



Irene Skliva, from Athens, yesterday, after she was crowned Miss World in India

Activists go into hiding as Miss World is crowned

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BANGALORE

MISS GREECE, crowned Miss World on Saturday night, wore a sari borrowed from a hotel housekeeper yesterday to present herself to the press.

"It is the most bigger experience of my life and I will never forget it," she said in English, which she is studying at journalism school.

Irene Skliva, 18, from Athens, came primed with evasive answers to questions about boyfriends and her feelings toward traditionalist Hindus who condemned the event, held in Bangalore.

Miss Skliva said she had not yet decided how to spend the \$80,000 (£48,000) prize

money, but added that she "would like to have a lot of travel and try to have fun".

Julia Morley, the competition organiser, announced that some of the proceeds would be used to set up open-heart surgery facilities for children in Bangalore, a cancer hospital and the forthcoming Army and Navy Week in Bombay would also benefit.

Twelve Hindu women who were supposed to have immolated themselves and swallowed cyanide at the crowning ceremony were nowhere to be seen. Ten thousand police, thousands of paramilitary forces and legions of private guards sealed

off the stadium where the event was held in a drizzle.

Kiray Sashikala, the women's activist who led the protest movement, went into hiding late last week to avoid arrest. Her immolation threat was a bluff, but it cost Miss World Inc dearly as the huge security operation kept spectators away and caused ticket prices to crash.

More than 1,000 suspected protesters were arrested before the event and groups of women were attacked by police with canes and taken away in buses when they tried to stage a street protest. Chilli powder was thrown into the eyes of some policemen.

Military options set for Zaire operation

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MILITARY chiefs from countries which have offered to contribute towards a multinational force for Zaire agreed yesterday on three possible options for the mission as aid workers began assessing the scale of the refugee problem around Bukavu.

With aid agencies and military officials at loggerheads over the number of refugees unaccounted for — between about 200,000 and 700,000 — the emergency meeting of defence officials in Stuttgart highlighted the difficulty of producing recommendations for governments when not all the facts are known.

After three days of deliberations, three options for action emerged: basing a large force in Zaire, capable of mounting a relief operation with self-supporting logistics back-up and with firepower; locating a much smaller logistics force in Rwanda offering help to the civilian relief operation; and, the "zero option", backing away from sending any force.

Senior British defence sources said that although Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, appeared keen to involve British troops in any relief effort, the military were becoming increasingly doubtful about the wisdom of deploying soldiers when the mission was still so unclear.

Many British troops remain on short notice to leave for Zaire — ranging from 72 hours to five days — but it is now more likely that the Government will be advised to send the equivalent of a logistics regiment of 700 to 1,000 men if a multi-national force is approved.

The crucial issue is the whereabouts of the remaining refugees in eastern Zaire. US Army officers have said there are only 202,000 refugees and many are believed to be the families of the Interahamwe rebels and former Hutsu troops fleeing deeper into the jungle areas.

The first group of Rwandan refugees to arrive from camps in the Bukavu area, south of Lake Kivu, reached their homeland yesterday after walking more than 100 miles north around the Zaire side of the lake.

Mother Teresa worsens

Bangalore: Mother Teresa, 86, suffered heart failure for the second time in three days yesterday. Doctors said she would not be released from hospital soon (Christopher Thomas writes). "We cannot say there is no danger to her life, but at this moment she is not critical," Dr S.K. Sen, her cardiologist, said.

She was admitted to the private Woodlands Nursing Home in Calcutta on Friday after a heart attack, the third time since August that she had been in hospital for emergency care. The Nobel laureate told doctors on Saturday that she wanted to go home but she suffered left ventricular heart failure that evening and again yesterday.

Statue blessed

Jakarta: A 5ft statue of Christ, donated to East Timor by Indonesia, the territory's Muslim ruler, was blessed by Bishop Carlos Belo, the East Timorese Nobel Peace laureate. (AP)

Priests beatified

Vatican City: The Pope has beatified two Austrian priests killed by the Nazis. Otto Neururer was tortured and hanged at Buchenwald camp and Jakob Gapp was guillotined in Berlin. (AP)

Taleban push

Kabul: The Taleban militia has launched an offensive from its frontline north of the Afghan capital. commanders said. "We have captured Guldara," a Taleban leader claimed. (AFP)

Poll reversal

Belgrade: A municipal court here overturned the victory in local elections of an anti-government coalition, provoking claims that President Milosevic is making a mockery of democracy. (Reuters)

21 die in cart

Delhi: Twenty-one people in a marriage party were killed when the cart they were travelling in, pulled by a tractor, collided with a truck at Kota in Rajasthan, news agencies reported. (Reuters)

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Small print of Maastricht devalues Britain's single currency opt-out

Amid the brouhaha surrounding John Major's refusal to allow a few hundred pages of densely-worded EU draft law to be debated on the floor of the House of Commons, we have not learnt much about what the documents themselves say and mean. What is the fuss about?

Nothing at all, says Kenneth Clarke, who has written to every MP saying that nothing under consideration altered the fact that "unless we join EMU stage 3 [i.e. the single currency] we



retain complete control of domestic and economic policy". The Chancellor of the Exchequer has at least identi-

fied the pivotal issue can a British Government outside the single currency be forced to alter economic policy in any way it does not want to?

The papers which started the row, draft regulations on the Surveillance of Budgetary Positions, Excessive Deficit Procedure and an outline of one on "reinforced convergence procedures" are pieces of a larger jigsaw. The bigger picture shows that Mr Clarke's assurance of complete control is flimsy.

Economic freedom is exactly what the EU majority will

not want Britain to have outside a single currency zone. Since the single currency is an economic means to the political end of closer union, the German and French governments are determined that the euro must be strong enough to pull most other countries into its orbit within a few years of being launched.

Neither Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, nor President Chirac of France has the faintest intention of allowing rival currencies either to devalue far against the

euro or to become rival poles of attraction.

On the day after the Maastricht treaty text had been finished, I asked one of the most senior figures involved what odds he would give on Britain joining the single currency. "Come the day, we will be there," he replied.

But within the next two years, the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) had fallen apart and scepticism about monetary union was growing. This history is worth recalling

because exchange rates and not stability pacts or surveillance programmes are yet to be the heart of any future struggle over the autonomy of British economic policy. Mr Clarke is perfectly correct to tell MPs that the stability pact documents do not affect Britain unless it signs up for a single currency has begun.

He also has an arguable case that the rules requiring the British economy to "converge" with the single-currency zone are not enforceable with anything much more terrible than a slap on the

wrist. But Mr Clarke avoids mentioning that far more telling documents are yet to come from the Commission interpreting Article 109 (m) (2) of Maastricht which deals — enigmatically — with exchange-rate policies after a single currency has begun.

One of the papers now in the Commons hints that fresh rules are on the way, saying that when "detailed convergence rules are written they will cover 'prospects for the exchange rate'". A new version

GEORGE BROCK

Chechens declare end of conflict

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL
IN MOSCOW

CHECHEN leaders pronounced the war in Chechnya over yesterday after President Yeltsin ordered the withdrawal of the last two Russian brigades from the republic.

Opposition leaders in Moscow called the move an "act of national betrayal", however, and said they would table a motion of no confidence in the Government in parliament next week.

On Saturday, almost two years after the Russians first tried to oust the rebel regime led by General Dzhokhar, Moscow has signalled that it cannot control Chechnya. The two sides have signed a deal that sets out the ground rules for their relationship before elections are held in the republic on January 27.



Belarus soldiers queue to cast their presidential referendum ballots yesterday at their base in Minsk

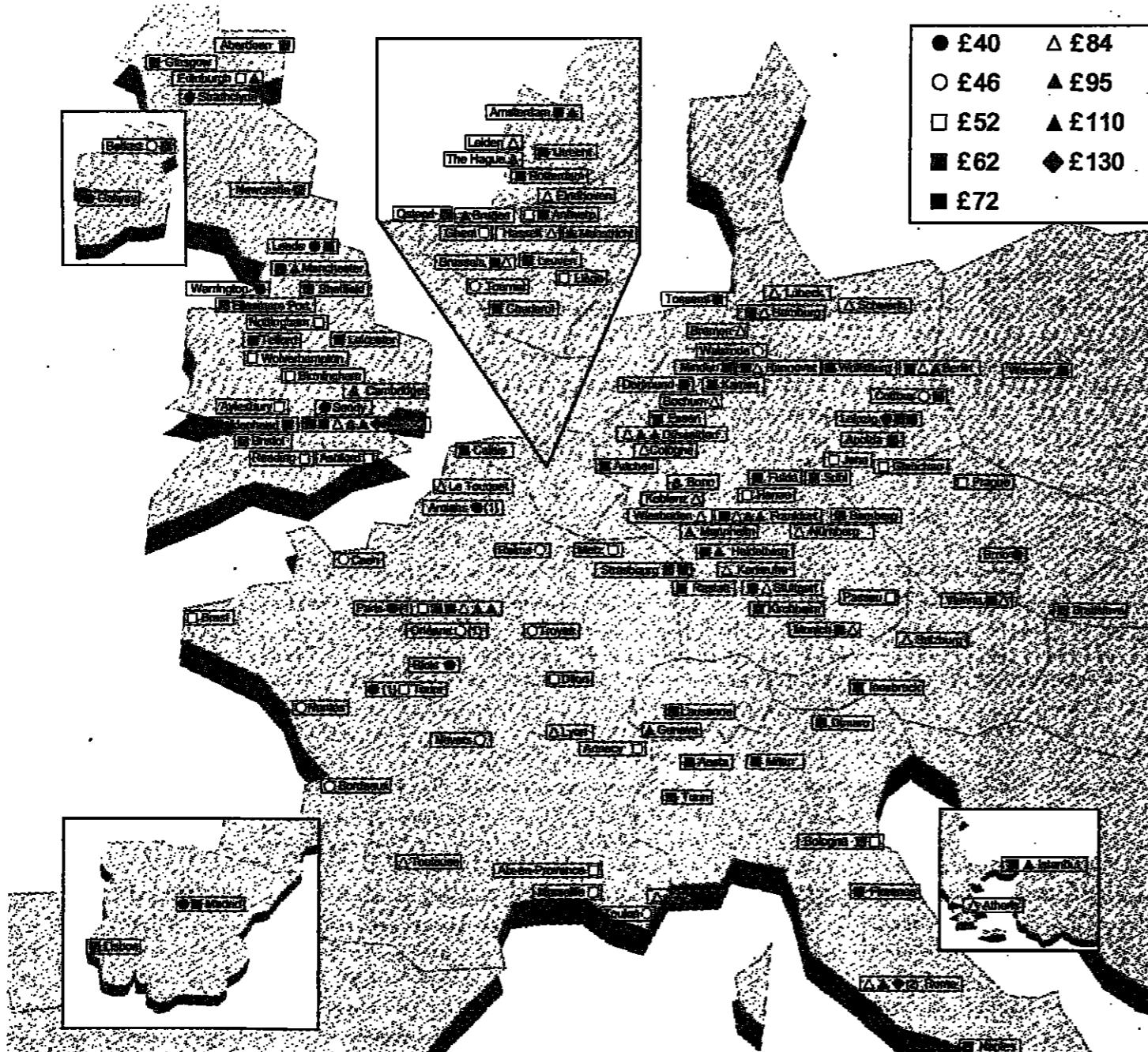
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Belarus President wins dictatorial powers in ballot

BY RICHARD BEESTON
IN MINSK

A COMFORTABLE victory seemed assured for President Lukashenko last night in a referendum to grant him sweeping new powers, which effectively will turn the former Soviet Republic of Belarus into a dictatorship.

As polls closed, a landslide was predicted for the young populist leader, who has been locked in confrontation with opposition in parliament.

The main provisions of the seven-point referendum call for a new constitution that would extend the President's tenure by two and a half years. It would also allow him to appoint half the members of the constitutional court and the electoral commission, as well as many deputies in a new two-chamber parliament. He already has complete control over the army, the security forces and the media.

Looking relaxed and confident as he cast his ballot at a polling station in Minsk, the former collective farm boss said that the result of the referendum would come into force as soon as the last vote was counted.

"I voted for Lukashenko because I believe in what he stands for," said Valerie Sennit, emerging with his wife from the polling station in central Minsk. "This country needs a strong leader: he is the

Yerevan: The mostly ethnic Armenian population in Azerbaijan's enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh voted in a presidential election yesterday which Robert Kocharyan, the present leader, is expected to win. As uneasy ceasefire in the mountainous Caucasus region has held since May 1994, six years after its declaration of independence from Azerbaijan. (Reuters)

only man for the job."

Thousands of demonstrators, including communists, nationalists and democrats, braved the first snowfall of the winter to protest against their mercurial leader outside the capital's parliament building, until now the centre of opposition to his rule. However, the rally eventually dispersed quietly as it dawned on the opposition that their battle was lost. "I am voting against Lukashenko because he is dangerous and power-hungry and will hurt our country," Sergei Urban, a businessman, said. "Unfortunately, I know he will win."

Bryan Cassidy, a British MEP, said after a tour of polling stations that the voting had been far from fair. In particular, he complained about the President's monopoly over the media and the procedure of having voting

Threat of strike over Madrid pay freeze

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

SPAIN'S powerful unions have threatened to call a general strike next month if José María Aznar, the Prime Minister, does not revoke his Government's decision to freeze the salaries of civil servants and public sector employees.

The threat was made by Antonio Gutiérrez, leader of one of the main general workers' unions, at a protest demonstration in Madrid at the weekend. According to the organisers' estimates, more than 200,000 government employees took part in the demonstration.

The decision to freeze wages was made recently as part of the Spanish Government's

efforts to cut public spending and reduce the budget deficit. A government spokesman said yesterday that there was absolutely no question of a change in essential economic policy, which is designed to ensure Spain's entry into the first tier of a single European currency.

Earlier, Señor Aznar, who arrives in London on Wednesday for official talks with the Government, described the wage freeze as "a reasonable measure". In London he is expected to discuss EU issues. Gibraltar will also be on the agenda in talks with John Major.

Leading article, page 25

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Running a caring company

Frances Cook, 45, is managing director of Sanders & Sidney, an agency which helps redundant executives to find work. She left her previous job when the company was taken over. She is married with two daughters, and lives near Chelmsford, Essex.

I WAS a trading director for a food company, when it was acquired by another company in 1986. I didn't want to end up doing something I didn't like, so I left. I met the then boss of Sanders & Sidney at a party and he invited me to join the company. I trained as a consultant, opened offices in Bristol, Cardiff and Swindon, and now six years later, I'm running the company. The change made me realise how good it is to be involved in a world which takes people who have undergone difficult experiences and help them to gain a new lease of life.

When I left my old job, people thought I was mad to give up on a world in which I had been such a success. But the hours were long, I travelled a lot and was under pressure to produce profits. I now work in a very caring, flexible organisation. I encourage people to work sensible hours, and to work from home if they prefer.



In search of the Good Life

Wendy Chilcott, 32, and her partner Steve Newman, 33, run their own PR company. They have decided to close it at the end of this year and, instead, run a smallholding in Kent or Sussex. They live near Tunbridge Wells and have a baby daughter.

STEVE and I set up our company, Gaia Communications, in 1990. We have been extremely successful and have looked after several big clients. However, both of us speculated about giving it up, because the company dominated our lives. The crunch came in January this year, when I had a baby. I had planned to work fewer hours, but didn't actually stop completely, because I still needed to be fully involved in the company. After

three months I arranged for a childminder to help out, but it was at that point that we decided it was time to sell.

We intend to buy a smallholding, breed ducks and chickens, grow our own vegetables and possibly keep sheep and pigs. We will live off these, and possibly sell any surplus. It sounds like a *Good Life* fantasy, but we made a thorough business plan before reaching the decision.



An escape into the toybox

Tony de Rivaz, 43, was a corporate finance specialist until two years ago, when he opted for voluntary redundancy and set up his own toy-making business. He is married with four children aged between 4 and 13, and lives in St Albans, Hertfordshire.

THE company I was working for underwent a downsizing in 1994 and 1995. I took voluntary redundancy and got a quite good settlement, which gave me the time to think about fulfilling two ambitions. The first was to invent something, the second was to set up my own business. For the past five years, I had been mulling over the design of a children's building block set, so I decided that I would pursue it. My wife was very supportive about my decision. I decided to commit myself to getting some toy kits made up, so everyone knew I was serious, but I also needed a bit of luck. I managed to interest Harrods in the idea and that gave impetus to the project.

Occasionally, I thought "What the hell are you doing?", but since the product has been embraced with open arms, my confidence has been higher than it's ever been.

Why it's never too late to switch careers

Colin Webb explains the reasons why he sought a new challenge before settling for a bus pass and a cosy pair of slippers.

Retirement, as a politician once said, is all very well — as long as you have a job to go to. Otherwise it means walking the dog, pruning the roses, spending more time with the crossword, continual golf and reading all those books. Well, yes, that's fine for those who like it, but not for me just yet. I think I will actually retire in perhaps another ten years. I have a job to go to — a late career change instead.

After 35 years in newspapers, which seek to focus on society's problems and draw conclusions strategically, I wanted to get out and get closer to some of those individual problems. And to help, in some way, tactically to draw some of them to a conclusion. In other words, to get more directly involved in life.

Before my far-off retirement, there is a lot to cram in. This is refreshing, reinvigoration, the chance to earn a crust and satisfaction in some very different work.

'Never assume you are God's gift to your colleagues.'

So what has life to offer those of us in the mid-fifties (57 in my case) before the slippers, cheap cinema matinees and the afternoon siesta? What fresh and refreshing challenge to keep us going? For me it was a conscious, careful decision this year a) to leave work I loved before I stopped enjoying it and b) to fulfil a long-held interest in mediation. Not counselling, not marriage guidance — just helping couples who are going through separation and/or divorce to deal with the inevitable distress and the after-effects with as little pain as possible. How different from work so far: Editor of the evening newspaper in Cambridge, deputy editor of *The Times*, and Editor in Chief of the Press Association — not ever even an agony aunt.

Spending a morning in a quiet room in Camberwell working with the anguish and bitterness of a couple whose marriage is ending, and getting them to try to agree the best arrangements for their children, is a far cry from the detached printed word. But it is not unusual for us late career changers to do what seems like a complete U-turn.

The perception of these changes is that they tend to be quite dramatic, but not necessarily traumatic, especially if you go about it the right

course you can bring some skills. In my case, that means handling publicity, writing articles, editing the national mediation newsletter, preparing marketing leaflets for a new grouping of lawyers and family mediators which seven youngsters and I are forming.

Play to your strengths, but make yourself useful. Be aware of your weak spots. The psychological stresses of any job loss can be severe, ending a career that has spanned nearly a working lifetime is almost a bereavement in itself. It is important to make sure that it is not a personal suicide instead. So, stay alive and stimulated. And keep that CV up to date with all these new experiences and skills. Who knows what the next late career change will be?



**ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD**


MUSIC
Alfred Brendel launches a Beethoven concerto cycle in the Barbican Hall
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday


POP

Northern lights: Runrig, the veteran exponents of Celtic rock, play the Albert Hall
GIG: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



DANCE
Ashley Page's new Two-Part Invention is premiered at Covent Garden
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



PANTO
Don't miss *The Times*'s unbeatable guide to the top Christmas shows across the country
BOOKING: Now
PREVIEW: Wednesday

I hope I am not alone with what may be a certifiable hunch. Had I accepted an invitation to go to Manchester last week and watch Manchester United play Arsenal (the team I support) I am convinced that Arsenal would not have lost the game through Nigel Winterburn's absurd own goal. I have an obdurate notion that although there were 40,000-plus spectators there, a solitary extra — myself — could, indeed, have made a crucial difference.

I feel better for admitting that. Rather desperately, I hope that others also suffer from this near-delusion. When you do not go to the concert, the opera, the theatre, the ballet, and someone tells you that it was marvellous, do you not sometimes think it would have been less good, or perhaps even more marvellous, had you been there?

I believe that this is a general affliction. Consider the butterfly in China, much beloved of economic experts. A few flaps of its fragile wings and, we are told, forces are

set in motion which whisper, then ripple, roll and thunder around the planet until stormclouds gather over the City of London. This is part of Chaos Theory.

Who could doubt, then, that my conviction is not entirely mad after all? One person, even in 40,000-plus, is at least comparable to the simple flutter of a butterfly's wings. Indeed, a mathematician who understands the rules of probability might put the contribution of the committed supporter some way ahead of that dynamic Oriental insect.

But we need heavier evidence. Accidents, it seems to me, are related to this. Imagine the effect of a diversion of all the Arsenal supporters from Manchester to Leeds had occurred that day. The Manchester stadium bereft of Arsenal sound would have had an

entirely different atmosphere. Arsenal would have felt at a serious disadvantage and probably have lost by many more.

Accident is at the heart of so much that turns out to be significant: Proust's fortuitous nibble at the cake called Madelaine; Jackson Pollock's whole career plan; Dickens's plots (where we dignify accident with the name of coincidence). We know it from our own lives — and, not least from our birth, the greatest and most exciting accident of all.

And we know it from great reputations, even those which seem most solid. "Had Thomas Girtin lived, I would have starved," Turner said, after his young rival's untimely death. Had Elvis Presley not been forced by the US Army to securate off his sideburns, then indisputably his iconographic importance and his

be "lifted" by a crowd, and pushed to peaks of performance which they have never before reached. Conversely, when they are in dead dumps they can deliver dreadful exhibitions.

But I am one sole voice in that Manchester crowd? Back to the day itself. A generous offer of a ticket from Angus Deayton, a Manchester United fanatic, had to be turned down because a commitment on that Saturday morning to a school rugby match meant that I couldn't travel to Manchester.

Nevertheless, I thought about the game, on and off, throughout the afternoon and brooded on the fact that I could have been there. Losing such an important match through such a miserable own goal only made my speculation more acute.

songs would not have softened so sadly — with immeasurable consequences for late 20th-century popular art.

We also know (because they tell us all the time) that performers can

On a more personal note, I am a little addicted to telling our excellent but wholly left-footed Nigel Winterburn (who scored the own goal) that he is a monopod or (to vary it) a Hopalong. This comment, kindly meant, surely reminds him of his other foot, which he employs only once or twice in a game. Had this regular message been firmly in his head nine days ago, he would have been much less likely to have been unfortunate or clumsy, and put one past England's (and Arsenal's) goalkeeper, David Seaman — something which Manchester United's attack had conspicuously failed to do.

There is one final point. All of us know that the idea of the moulded single-minded mass is only half the story. A mass can be moved and swayed instantly and effectively by the mere flutter of one of its members. A mass is volatile; read any fine novelist describing war. Even, I contend, a single well-behaved member of a mass can have a decisive effect. Each of us could be that Chinese butterfly.

Chance is a fine thing, in art and football

MELVYN BRAGG



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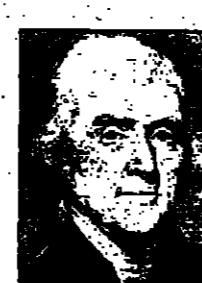
SONGS YOU'VE NEVER
HEARD

BY MELVYN BRAGG

WITH MUSIC BY
JONATHAN BROWN



■ THEATRE
Siobhan Redmond treads the boards in Stratford-upon-Avon for a new *Much Ado About Nothing*. OPEN: Wednesday REVIEW: Friday



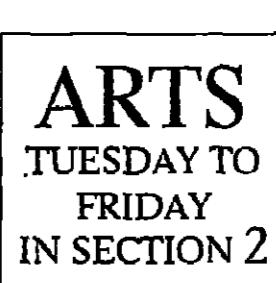
■ BOOKS
The Long Affair: Jefferson and the French Revolution is chronicled by Conor Cruise O'Brien. IN THE SHOPS: Now REVIEW: Thursday



■ FILMS
Weird, wacky, and famous for 15 minutes: Mary Harron's *I Shot Andy Warhol* opens OPEN: Friday REVIEW: Thursday



■ OPERA
Diving tonight: Bizet's tuneful *The Pearl Fishers* returns to the Coliseum OPEN: Friday REVIEW: Thursday



■ ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY IN SECTION 2



Enough to have Bertie Wooster helping police with their inquiries: English 18th-century cow creamers bearing the mark of John Schuppe

THEATRE: Tudor machinations in an authentic setting; madness brought to book; Irish epic

Henry and his turbulent priest

Where better to present a play about England's most famous Cardinal than in the city of his birth and at the theatre named after him, where the programme is printed by the Wolsey Press? Also where, if he had held on to power for a few more years, the school he founded to rival Winchester might have become as famous as Eton.

Two women brought Cardinal Wolsey down: Catherine of Aragon refused to have her marriage to King Henry annulled, and Anne Boleyn resisted the King's attempts to make her his mistress, replying in effect, 'Queen or nothing'. She became queen and Wolsey became nothing, inspiring Shakespeare to write the celebrated farewell scene that will be heard from next week at Stratford, when the rarely performed *Henry VIII* enters the repertoire.

Writing a good historical play is no easy job. Unlike Shakespeare's contemporaries we do not go to the playhouse to learn our history, although we may find its odder byways, interestingly unfamiliar. But Judith Cook's play is a march down the main highway. Here come all the usual suspects in their flat, feathered hats and court-card headresses, the aristos jealous for their privileges, Thomas Cromwell scurrying about his business, messengers criss-crossing the Channel — 'Deliver this to His Holiness!'

The Devil's Cardinal
Wolsey, Ipswich

Cook's particular route-map has its individuality, drawing on the early Tudor disbelief that a woman could rule a realm, supporting this by making her male characters denigrate women's ability to deal with anything outside hearth and home, and finally, with Henry demanding a solution to his Great Matter, showing Wolsey shake his head in dismay that it should be two women who have outwitted him. Smith sets this parable of

given the opportunity or the language to reveal impulses any deeper than pride.

Mat Wilkinson plays the King throughout as a spoilt teenager, which is when the play begins but 25 years later should be something far more terrifying, the spoilt tyrant. Instead, his anger sounds too much like Aguecheek's.

I suspect the author was less interested in him than in his first two Queens (Jane Arden, Julie Marsden), both played with spirit and Arden touchingly showing Catherine's unbending defiance. Thus was the Church of England founded. Perhaps the Devil had the last laugh after all.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Damned scribble scribble

Imperfect Librarian
Young Vic

prison, and puts on scratchy vinyl recordings of the opera singer Enrico Caruso.

From these unpromising beginnings, the young experimental company, Primitive Science, spins a tale as quirky and compelling as Patrick Süskind's *Perfume*. But instead of a quest for the perfect scent, this is a quest for the perfect book.

Enter a check-suited intellectual, quizzing and curious, like a clown from an early Stoppard play. In his brief case is the impossible book. 'I have had all books in the way

Casanova had all women,' boasts our librarian wearily. Then he touches it.

To us it is made of clear perspex. But for Paul Cowan's shocked bibliophile its infinite pages fill the Young Vic Studio with roaring concertos, exotic Arabic music and soulful blues. Consumed by the desire to master this 'monster', he is predictably brought to his knees. As if in sympathy a hand pops through the floorboards and fondles his bald head.

The joy of this simple, magical story, devised and directed by Marc von Henning, is the light-fingered madness of the piece. For a director who has spent much of his career wallowing in the angst-filled mud holes of conceptual playwrights such as Heiner Müller, this change of direction is as invigorating as a sea breeze.

In the second half we flip to a frustrated poet in another corner of the library. Here the stage is littered with balled fists of paper and splodges of ink, as Dan Jemmett's bedraggled poet struggles to write a single word. Again the same background voice (Sean Boyce) intones his delightfully constipated thoughts.

Clarity of performance is the decisive weapon. The transitions the actors make between interior monologues and their short bursts of charged dialogue are as seamless and manipulative as the music.

This will not appeal to populist tastes, but Primitive Science is one of that all too rare breed of experimental companies it realises it has a licence to entertain as well as fail. And, at the moment, Primitive Science is failing brilliantly.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Lyrical setting of Yeats

IN HIS time, director Michael Scott has produced everything from musicals to grandioses versions of Irish classics. *Luke Clancy* writes. Now with his production of Yeats's cycle of poetic dramas about the legendary Irish hero, Cúchulain, he seems to have combined his two interests to create an engaging entertainment that might have easily opened under the title 'Cúchulain: The Musical'.

Scott's production, at the RHA Gallagher Gallery, offers a fine dusting of sugar to the pill of W.B. Yeats's occasionally cryptic poetic dramas. Adding a solid band of traditional and rock musicians and setting some of the poet's lines to music, Scott sets off to recuperate the sometimes wordy plays with a style of theatre which manages to be

The Cúchulain Cycle Dublin

rough, pacy and physical, while maintaining a sense of Yeatsian lushness.

If there is any danger that modernisation might turn the legends into a giddy, vacant Riverdance, then the basement space in which the plays are performed — a set of interlinked, chilly concrete and breeze-block chambers — prevents things from leaning too close to snazzy. This is no easy task, as the opulent costumes of Synná O'Mahony involve ever-increasing doses of glitter and feathers. The overall visual impact suggests that Yeats's Celtic tales have been transported to a car park in a distant galaxy.

Such incongruities appear to be part of Scott's attempt to wrest Yeats's dramas free of their mouldy public image, and for most of the evening, he succeeds. Although some sections become rigidly operatic, Scott's chief influence is to offer a lifeline to a body of work which seems to grow more remote every day.

The *Cúchulain Cycle*'s greatest weaknesses occur in the casting. Some of the more prominent players, Hazel O'Connor (yes that Hazel O'Connor) and Derek Chapman cope well with the singing and half-singing of verse, but Feidhlim Hillary, as the eponymous warrior, is simply too superficial. In the smaller roles, Phyllis Ryan turns in a confident, tipsy monologue about philistine actors, but Angus Og McAnally struggles as Cúchulain's long-lost son.

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JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Matthew Parris



■ Never tell anyone they are not wanted, made the wrong choice, came at the wrong time — even if it's true

Before a party last week to celebrate my dear secretary's first half-century at Westminster, I was asked for advice on a present for her. "Money," I said. "Or a gift voucher." I know the unsentimental Eileen too well to think she would find such a gift charmless. "If you actually buy her a present," I added, "the chances are it won't be right, and she'll ask if it can be exchanged." She would tell you so in a matter-of-fact way. Eileen Wright is the kindest person in the world and not at all ungrateful. It is just that she takes a practical attitude to gifts. If it doesn't suit, she will say so.

In this she is wrong, though I will never persuade her of it. Wrong, not because her argument is unreasonable, but because human beings are. Many, including me, do feel hurt if a gift is rejected. Accepting that a world of Eileens would be a more sensible world, I also know that this is not a world of Eileens.

As a teenager I once gave my grandmother a lace tablecloth for Christmas. I loved Grandma very much and had saved up for the gift, which was expensive. When I gave it to her she said, "No, I don't need another tablecloth. Can't you take it back?" Grandma, you see, was an Eileen. I knew she did not mean to offend, but I was tremendously upset.

In the giving of a gift there is something deep and primitive; and in the rejecting of a gift there is something equally profound. It is true, too, of returning a gift, or asking for it back. Realising that our relationship had gone the way she had hoped, somebody once asked me to return a present she had given me. I agreed immediately. She had asked in the nicest and most tentative way, explaining that she noticed I had never really used it. This was true: I didn't actually like it. But I was so hurt by the request I found it quite difficult to speak to her, for years. She, too, like Eileen, is a good and kind person — perhaps better and kinder than me — but practical.

She made a mistake. There are certain rules that go completely against the grain of common sense, and it is as well to note them. Another friend, realising that a social engagement would involve his encountering me at a party he was attending with an elderly lady, asked if I would mind not acknowledging him. His companion did not know he was gay, and had conservative ideas on the subject. When she had mentioned my name, he had never admitted knowing me. Now (she feared), the penny might drop and she would be concerned about him — though he and I are only friends.

I agreed readily not to acknowledge him, but with huge internal anger. The

A world of Eileens would be more sensible, but this is not such a world

even when you pray he will not accept. Never suggest to another person that his presence is unwanted, even when it is. Never fail to invite someone in,

never when you pray he will not accept. Never suggest that another's call is inconvenient, however inconvenient it may be. Even if you have no chair to sit on or the cupboard is bare, never fail to invite an unexpected visitor to join you when a meal is going on.

Many years ago, when my mother was in hospital, a whip-round was being taken for a gift to one of the other patients: my mother did the collecting. The woman in the bed next to her seemed destitute and, as she was asleep, my mother used the excuse to miss her. But she found out, did not believe the excuse, and was hurt beyond words.

And just as the poor have their sensitivities, so do the rich. You will find (if you can persuade a rich person to confide in you) that however free they are with their generosity, they do notice who hangs back when bills arrive, and deeply resent the assumption that they will pay, even when they plan to. Conversely, if someone who has no money insists on paying for someone who is rich, it gives quite disproportionate pleasure.

What then, this Christmas, shall we give the man who has everything? The answer is that such people are the easiest to please. It does not matter what you give them. Needing nothing, and expecting nothing, they are pleasantly surprised at anything.

Egg on face

LONG FACES over at *The Spectator*, where Kimberly Fortier, the elegant new publisher, is instituting a cultural shake-up. First on her list of innovations is restricting staff access to the drinks cupboard. The booze contained there is theoretically for *Spectator* lunches, parties, that sort of thing.

In recent months, however, certain members of staff had begun treating it as their private stash, not least Bruce Anderson, their heavyweight political editor, who had been fishing stuff out of it from a Christmas hamper. Fortier denies rumours that last week, with Anderson out to lunch, she had the locks changed. But if she hasn't, there are fears that she yet may.

Another point of discussion among the staff there is the apparently failing eyesight of the former eggs minister, Edwina Currie. Last week she spotted a cartoon in the magazine promoting Baroness Thatcher's favoured outfitter, Aquascutum. A tweed-clad, saucy-looking black-haired lady with a come-hither look was flexing an umbrella above the caption "I'll

take six of your best please". "Obviously me," surmised the mistress of parliamentary bonkbusters. "I phone for the original." Edwina was to be disappointed, for she was quickly informed that the cartoon depicted Education Secretary Gillian Shephard.



• Look to your pearls, girls. Just as Hollywood men had got used to flashing diamond studs in their earlobes, pearl studs have moved on. The more discreet pearl stud is the accessory now, and actors are alternating white pearls with the more exotic black. Bruce Willis is said to be among the first to show off the new look.

Huck fin?

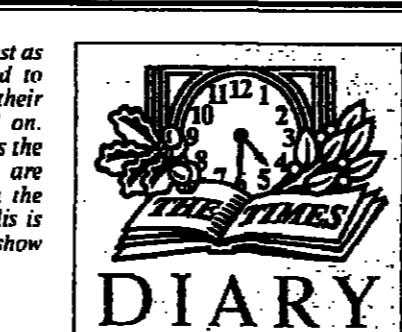
THE NEW Governor of Arkansas, the Republican Jim Huckabee, is touring America trying to repair the damage Bill Clinton has done to the state's image.

"I want the world to know there's more to Arkansas than the five blocks around the courthouse in Little Rock," he says. "Good deer-hunting, for instance. . . Not that I myself hunt. . . A Republican Governor go out in the woods with 300,000 Democrats armed with high-calibre rifles? You joking?"

Real Jesus

A SPOOKY letter is wedged in the frame of the dressing-room mirror of Steve Balsamo, who plays Jesus in the rehashed West End

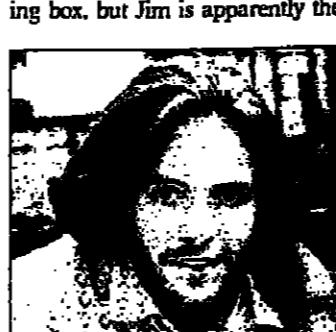
musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*. It comes from one J.M. Balsamo, a sepiagenarian of Gibraltar extraction, who wrote after seeing Balsamo Jr on television and learning of his name. He wants to find out which branch of the clan Steve comes from. "I nearly fell off my chair when I saw your name and the part you were playing," wrote the old boy. "You won't believe it but my first name is Jesus." The two have arranged to meet after a performance soon.



tomorrow. "I'll be offering the PM a few tips, certainly," says the blonde. "In my opinion he's a bit wobbly and losing his way, but he's the only man for the job." Major's breath must be bated.

Dog that tried

LAST WEEK saw the centenary of the death of Station Jim, Slough's celebrated railway collecting dog. During the 1890s, a number of stations featured a dog with a collecting box, but Jim is apparently the



only one still standing at his home station — albeit taxidermied.

During his short life — he died in harness aged only three — he collected more than £40, and mastered many amusing tricks. These included sitting in a chair with a pipe in his mouth, stamping on lit matches (with a disapproving growl) and acting the part of a bandaged patient in St John Ambulance demonstrations.

Show birds

VICTORIA CHAPLIN, the third of Charlie Chaplin's five daughters, opens the circus show that she co-founded tomorrow at the Mermaid Theatre — but she is lucky that one of her key performers is still active.

Louis, an African bee-eater, escaped from a dressing room and flapped off in the direction of Blackfriars the other day.

A search party returned empty-handed hours later. The next morning, however, the bird hopped in over the theatre doorsill, feathers barely ruffled. "I knew he wouldn't miss the opening," says his handler, Jessica.

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the European Court on the 48-hour week, which John Major so much resents, shows how safeguards against EU decisions can be eroded. The immediate issue is how far Britain would be subject to the stability pact of the European monetary union even if we did not join the single currency. Parliament wants to debate that before the meeting of European finance ministers discusses the German proposals for the stability pact on December 2. Although no binding decisions are likely to be taken at this meeting, the whole European process is one of decisions which become binding by stages. If John Major himself has been outraged by the European Court's decision to invalidate one opt-out, how can he expect Parliament to take on trust the effects of the proposed stability pact on another opt-out? The fears are not fanciful. The Treasury itself has already concluded that "the current proposals would not be acceptable to Parliament".

So far as Britain is concerned, the Franco-German alliance, the Commission and the European Court have destroyed the relationship of trust. They have behaved in the 1990s more like deceitful enemies than honest allies. That is why the British suspicion of all European arrangements has reached the present fever pitch. John Major must bear his share of the blame. He signed the Maastricht treaty, he whined through the Commons and Lords, he refused a Maastricht referendum. He said it would be a betrayal to leave the exchange-rate mechanism the weekend before he left it. He blackballed the federalist Dehaene as President of the Commission and accepted the equally federalist Santer. The British do not any longer trust the European institutions; they do not trust John Major to defend their interests from European regulation; they feel that each of the Prime Minister's tactical victories on Europe has proved to be a strategic defeat for Britain.

The Prime Minister's tactical position is tricky, but his constitutional duty is clear: no more private deals

Clarke could break the Government today

very important in Ulster politics. They would like an all-Ireland beef arrangement, under which Europe would let their beef be exported as BSE-free. This is difficult for John Major on Irish, European and even on Scottish grounds. The Scottish beef producers, who have also suffered relatively few cases of BSE, would be furious if Ulster beef could be exported and Scottish beef could not.

Perhaps one should start by looking at the matter from John Major's point of view. He seems to have made a bad tactical mistake, yet he became Prime Minister, and has remained so for six years, because he is a very skilled political tactician. We should start with the assumption that he does not make tactical mistakes out of carelessness or lack of experience. When one surveys the parliamentary battlefield as it was last week, one can see the many difficulties he faced.

The big fact — always to be kept in mind — is that the Conservatives cannot afford an early general election. They have a nominal majority of one, which means that they are wholly dependent on the Ulster Unionist vote. It takes only one maverick Eurosceptic or Euro-fanatic to bring them down, if they do not have David Trimble alongside them. Only when the Unionists go into its lobby is the Government safe. Current Conservative estimates are that a forced election in the next three months could result in a Labour majority of as many as 150 seats.

Last week the Unionists were not on board the Tory ship. Mr Trimble was worried about the Hume proposals, which were being kept secret, and scented the possibility of John Major doing a deal with the nationalists to get a new IRA ceasefire before Christmas. The Unionists are also under pressure in their own constituencies on the European beef issue, which is

as strong a bargaining position as their numbers suggest.

John Major will also have talked to Kenneth Clarke. He certainly cannot afford to lose him. Whether or not the Clarke years as Chancellor will look good to the historians, they do at present look good to the electorate. Leaving aside his views on Europe, Kenneth Clarke is the Conservative Party's best election asset. If he were to go, the Conservatives would be back to the forecast of a Labour majority of 150.

Kenneth Clarke has decided to

make a statement in the House today, partly in response to the *Sunday Times* story about the undisclosed documents, partly no doubt in re-

sponse to the needs of the Prime Minister. We do not yet know what he will say, or what form of debate will follow. At best, he could reassure the doubtful, but if he yields no real ground he could make things even worse. A confidence motion could be

the consequence.

The final point that John Major

has to settle is how small and innocuous a debate he can now get away with. He will have to accept a fudge; it will look like a retreat; he will be

pretending it is not a U-turn. Marcus Fox will be the best guide on that point: he knows how strong Tory backbench feeling now is. If his talks with David Trimble, Kenneth Clarke and Marcus Fox have all reached a satisfactory conclusion, John Major will be able, once again, to walk out warily from the parliamentary minefield. Of course one of the mines may explode this week; no one can be sure.

I feel much sympathy for John Major. The role of a Prime Minister with a split party and a nominal majority of one is not to be envied. But his strategic position is much harder to defend than his tactical one. However much one can sympathise with his immediate difficulties, the attempt to avoid a proper parliamentary debate on the proposals for the stability pact is outrageous. Britain has passed the point at which vital decisions on Europe can be taken privately and slipped through quietly. Neither in Parliament nor among the public does the trust still exist which might allow that to happen. Even the latest decision of

The House will have its say



tee on European Legislation unanimously recommended this time. But this was rejected by the Government, and the relevant committee voted last Wednesday not to "take note" of the documents.

Mr Major claims that holding the committee debate amounted to the necessary scrutiny. No one need worry, he says, since no "final" decisions will be taken by the meeting of European finance ministers a week today, and the Commons will have a full debate before the heads of government summit in Dublin in mid-December. That is true; and, as Kenneth Clarke will say in the Commons this afternoon, Britain will enter what is known as a "scrutiny reserve", since Parliament has not given its approval and any report will be non-binding. But the finance

ministers could still determine the broad terms of the leaders' talks at the full summit.

The sceptics are suspicious that Mr Clarke is trying to commit Britain to interference by Brussels in fiscal policy even if sterling does not join a single currency. These fears are exaggerated, and the two documents leaked over the weekend are irrelevant, since the proposals in one have been rejected by Britain. The draft stability pact does suggest that surveillance and co-ordination of budgetary policies should apply to non-members, but this refers to provision of information rather than fiscal decisions. There are no sanctions apart from a reprimand from the Council

of Ministers. But the sceptics want a more explicit reference to Britain not being affected.

The Government's response is unsatisfactory to pro-Europeans as well as to sceptics, because it ignores the clear cross-party view of the House, expressed by the Select Committee on European Legislation, by last Wednesday's vote and, since then, by a wide range of MPs. When an ultra-loyalist such as Sir John Stanley is critical, it is time for ministers to notice. It also represents disregard for the conventions, if not the precise rules, of the House.

That is where the Speaker's intervention is significant. She did not, as was widely reported, accuse the Government of undermining the "integrity of the House". What she did was stress her concern about "maintaining

the integrity of the House's procedures", with the clear implication that she meant the spirit as much as the letter. Miss Boothroyd, like her predecessor, Bernard Weatherill, has been worried by the decline in the House's public reputation. As the first two Speakers of the televised Commons, they have become the public faces of Parliament, and have received a large number of letters about the rowdiness of Prime Minister's Questions and charges of sleaze.

Betty Boothroyd's occasional blunt interventions about the threat to the standing of the House have not gone down well with the more partisan Tories. For example, when the House returned in mid-October, she gave a statement echoing public worries about sleaze allegations and clearly supporting the provision of resources and powers for a full investigation. Her remarks helped to ensure that the current inquiry is both comprehensive and public, but she annoyed Tory whips, who had been hoping for a narrower investigation which would be over quickly.

There is a limited amount the Speaker can do. Like the monarch, she has the right to encourage and warn, in her case publicly as well as privately. But control over the timing and subject of debates lies mainly with the Government, apart from some Opposition-sponsored debates each session. Just as Lord Weatherill was irritated by a long implicit conspiracy between the two front benchers not to hold a full debate on the miners' strike of 1984-85, so Miss Boothroyd believes important issues should be raised on the floor.

The Speaker does, however, have the power, an almost nuclear threat, to agree to a three-hour emergency debate. This is rarely used, and Mrs Clarke's statement this afternoon — and the likely promise of a full debate later — should head off that possibility. The Speaker has played her part in ensuring that the Commons performs its "expressive function". The Government's calculated gamble that it could push the three documents through without full debate has failed — and quite right too.

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150



BACK TO REALITY

What the Chancellor needs to tell the House of Commons today

With the furore over Parliament's right to be properly consulted on European legislation risking the ignominious eclipse of tomorrow's Budget, Kenneth Clarke has volunteered himself for the parliamentary firing line today. The Chancellor, who has a positive taste for grapeshot, might have acted earlier had John Major not dithered for the very motives that made him refuse a Commons debate — his fear that Mr Clarke's pro-EMU instincts would betray him. It is a measure of the Prime Minister's self-induced peril that this now appears as the least of his worries.

Downing Street hopes that by enabling rebel MPs to grill the Chancellor today, they will settle for the offer of a full debate on EMU — but next month rather than this Friday, the only day available before the December 2 meeting of EU finance ministers. The aim is to clear this week's deadlines for the Budget, freeing the whips to rally the troops behind Central Office's campaign to "get back on message" with the Conservatives' economic success story.

That goal is, just, still within reach. But since again Mr Major has made things needlessly difficult for himself by waiting until the quicksands were up to his waist before grabbing the rope. The decision to satisfy an aroused House of Commons seems ridiculous, dammingly late.

The rescue mission will have to be correspondingly ambitious — far more ambitious than is suggested by Mr Clarke's repeated intention to "correct misleading reports" and "reiterate" earlier assurances. He must also be a good deal more precise about Britain's negotiating intentions than he was in the letter which he circulated to all MPs last Friday. They will be satisfied with nothing less than guarantees not only with regard to the Government's respect for Parliament's rights of scrutiny, but on the substance of Britain's legal position outside future monetary union.

Before he can advance onto the main battleground, Mr Clarke has territory of his own to defend. He must convince MPs that he gave an entirely accurate and complete

summary to the Commons Select Committee on European Legislation of a report by the European Monetary Institute on the single currency and the proposed new European Monetary System. His response so far, that the new EMU will not be treaty-based, ducks the question at issue, which is whether he has kept MPs fully informed. In Parliament's present mood, he risks being found in contempt of the committee. His right course is to publish the relevant passages so that MPs can make up their minds.

Next, he must convince the House that nothing will be decided by the EU's Finance Ministers on December 2. He has already promised to enter a "scrutiny reserve", thus blocking the formal adoption of legislation until Parliament has given its assent. But that will not be enough to allay suspicions, and for good reason. In the words of Mr Clarke's own letter last Friday, Ecofin "is due to agree a report" on the draft directives for next month's summit: "political agreement could well be reached on the single currency, without which the federal edifice will not be complete."

Those who value the freedom and independence of our nation must ensure that the vaulting ambition of

Mr Clarke is adament that none of these documents will affect Britain unless it joins the single currency. His opponents, pointedly referring to Britain's defeat in the European Court over the 48-hour week, say that to insulate the Government against all possible future legal challenges, guarantees must be set in stone now. To protect Britain's opt-out from EMU, they want each directive to contain an explicit statement that Britain will not be affected by regulations covering surveillance, monetary convergence or the EMU stability pact. All that is demanded is absolute clarity. Mr Clarke should meet that demand today. It would produce not just peace in his time, but peace with honour.

SPAIN IN THE FRONT LINE

Aznar is a modern leader for an increasingly modern country

The British Government does not know Jose Maria Aznar as well as it should. Spain's new conservative Prime Minister, who arrives for official talks in London on Wednesday, has been in office for only seven months. His occasional meetings with John Major have been slipped into the interstices of European summits; hardly the best occasions for them to search calmly for common ground. And inevitably, after 13 years of Socialist rule in Spain, British diplomacy may also have become too used to the ways of Señor Aznar's predecessor, the quicksilver Felipe González.

Obeying the pull of Spain's traditional magnets within the European Union, Señor Aznar has already been to see Jacques Chirac, the French President, and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor. Britain, with which Madrid has not always enjoyed smooth relations, now has the chance to put its concerns across to Señor Aznar, receiving, in turn, the Spanish Prime Minister's own account of his country's new ambition.

Spain today is in the European mainstream, and Britain has done well to recognise this. The new Government's priorities are to modernise Spain's foreign policy and economy. In the case of the former, it has done well to rid itself of that peculiar combination of overblown rhetoric and subservience to Germany that was such a feature of the previous Socialist Government's policies. Since the Popular Party came to power, Spain has made it clear that it wishes to be treated as a serious, independent player within the EU. While there is no doubt that it

favours greater European integration, Madrid can no longer be taken for granted by either Paris or Berlin. The significance of this has not been lost on Britain.

Furthermore, Spain's decision to opt for full integration into Nato's military command structure is an important strategic gain. Madrid has, effectively, taken charge of the EU's Maghreb policy, and pushed hard to see Europe's concerns over North Africa appropriately reflected in the Nato structure. There remain some problems with Britain here mainly over the place of Gibraltar in a reorganised Nato, but there is no reason why Mr Major and Señor Aznar should not aim to finesse these differences.

Yet Señor Aznar's greatest contribution has so far been in the reforms his Government has introduced into the Spanish economy. Public spending has been reduced, public sector wages have been frozen, state enterprises have begun to be sold off, and radical labour reforms are promised. Spain's aim is to be in the first tier of European monetary union, and its fiscal and monetary policy has been driven hard by that objective. Few questions have been asked about whether EMU is necessarily good for Spain, the country with the highest rate of structural unemployment in Europe. EMU is seen in Madrid as a sort of panacea.

It may prove otherwise. Competitiveness is Spain's new watchword, and in this respect it sees Britain as a model. Señor Aznar may not share Britain's doubts about the age of the euro; but that is all the more reason to give the subject a good airing this week.

LIFE AFTER THE BUS PASS

Early retirement can set the grey workhorses free

Retirement used to be defined as a door closing on working life. But in this new world of "the third age", it is becoming a choice of doors opening. The men and women who have taken early retirement and tell their stories on pages 20 and 21 are finding themselves new lives.

Our examples are perhaps the lucky ones. They have the skills, ambition and enterprise to take new paths in middle age. They also have jobs from which they can take early retirement. But their experience shows the way that the world of work is changing.

Retirement used to be the penultimate rite of passage leading to the bus pass, carpet slippers and an appointment with daytime television. A gold watch was presented to the loyal worker or company man when time-keeping had ceased to be important to him. Service officers who could not find jobs as bursars or secretaries of golf clubs took up gardening or golf. As Hazel Weiss said, after her husband retired as manager of the New York Yankees: "I married him for better or worse, but not for lunch." In this new world, company man is becoming portfolio man, changing jobs and activities throughout his career. So for him early retirement can be dramatic without being traumatic.

People are living longer as jobs are growing shorter and more of them are being done by computer and other machines. In 1910 only one in 20 of the population was aged more than 65. By 1994 they were more

than three in 20, and the proportion is rising. In 1910 27.2 per cent of the population was between 35 and 64, the ages for taking early retirement. By 1994 it was 35.8 per cent, and rising. In 1910 an employee took a job in an office or a factory, and expected to stay there until his retirement presentation, when his boss might make a joke that the company was not so much losing a worker as gaining a parking space.

The Department of Social Security has produced remarkable figures illustrating the change in British working patterns over less than a generation. In 1975, 90 per cent of 55 to 65-year-old men were still in full-time work. Twenty years later, the figure has dropped by a third. The department calculates that more than 60 per cent of the male working population and 41 per cent of working women retire from full-time work before reaching their official ages of retirement. Early retirement is becoming normal, not the exception.

Women now constitute half the workforce, and the world of work is adapting to new patterns of part-time and flexible working. The iron routine of 9-to-5, factory hooters and clocking on and off dying, and being replaced by less rigid and more humane working practices. Employees are getting used to changing careers throughout their working lives. And early retirement will increasingly become a new chance and a challenge, not a defeat or a failure.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. MacDIARMAID-GORDON,
19 Lincoln Grove,
Sale, Cheshire.
November 18.

Otis's invention

From Dr A. R. MacDiarmaid-Gordon

Sir, Your report today ("The European quiz with a £36,500 prize") perpetuates the understandable, but mistaken, belief that Hyram Otis invented the passenger lift; he did not. What Otis did invent was a ratchet safety device whereby a lift with a broken cable is prevented from going into free-fall.

The obvious advantage of this device, demonstrated for the first time in public in 1854 by Otis himself standing on a platform while its cable was cut, led to widespread uptake of the passenger lift, especially those produced by Otis's company.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. MacDIARMAID-GORDON,
19 Lincoln Grove,
Sale, Cheshire.
November 18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

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Financial crisis at British Museum

From Sir Nicholas Goodison,
Chairman of the National Art
Collections Fund

Sir, I would like to add my voice to those who are worried about the imposition of admission charges at the British Museum (Arts, November 6).

Before we abandon the principle of free access in our rush to provide a short-term solution to the British Museum's complex financial problems we must ask some fundamental questions. For example, would potential benefactors be discouraged from supporting the museum? And can we as a society afford to discourage in any way the pursuit of knowledge, or deprive anyone of the opportunity to benefit from such a rich store of inspiration?

A decision to charge is likely to have profound implications for the cultural life of the nation. If the British Museum is forced to take this step the pressures on other cultural institutions to follow suit will be almost irresistible.

At the very least the Government, which is apparently keen to see admission charges imposed, should provide parliamentary time for the issues to be fully addressed.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GOODISON,
Chairman,
National Art Collections Fund,
7 Cromwell Place, SW7.

November 22.

From Professor Emeritus
Walter Elkan

Sir, Admission charges are not the only alternative to free entrance to the British Museum or the National Gallery. At present, six million visitors to the BM put less than £300,000 into its collecting boxes each year.

Instead of donation-chests, let there be people doing the collecting and the amount is likely to rise steeply. It is much more difficult to ignore people than a donation chest. Secondly, have a suggested amount, but keep it modest — £1 perhaps, and £2 for a family. £1 will not deter any visitor, especially if it is made clear that it really is a donation, not an entrance charge, and that no one will be pressed to pay if they do not wish to.

The BM and the National Gallery have many well-wishers and friends. They would be delighted to help and would do so without pay. None would want to put in a 40-hour week; but one or two mornings or afternoons on a regular basis?

The BM would probably have to employ and pay one person to organise it all, but volunteers over retirement age in London would not even have to have their travel costs reimbursed, thanks to free passes on London Transport.

One does not need to have someone collecting all the time; if a volunteer fails to turn up it is not the end of the world. Meanwhile, since no one would be deterred from visiting the BM, sales receipts from the shop and cafeteria would remain unaffected, and the museum would be perhaps £3 million a year better off without turning any prospective visitors away.

Yours truly,
WALTER ELKAN,
98 Boundary Road, NW8.

From Mr Geoffrey Turner

Sir, If Sir Robert Sainsbury has stood in the entrance hall of the British Museum, or the National Gallery, or the V&A recently he will have seen cohorts of the international tourist army. They have come to London to see the sights and expect to pay a modest entrance charge to see them.

Last weekend, I was in Amsterdam. I went to the Rijksmuseum and paid its entrance fee, having expected to do so. I can remember a number of paintings that pleased me, but not what the entrance fee was.

If the BM trustees worry about access by poor scholars, let them offer free entry one day a week. For the rest, let London to what other major European cities do — charge the tourists a proper fee.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY TURNER,
44 Roundwood Lane,
Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Record catch

From Sir Richard Hanbury Tenison

Sir, Your report (November 21) of Mr Bond's record catfish mentions the "new" biggest freshwater fish ever caught in Britain, a 64lb salmon taken by Georgina Ballantine in 1922. That was certainly the largest salmon taken in British waters by rod and line but in June 1782 a 68lb salmon was taken in a net trawled by a coracle on the River Usk.

The Usk fish was considered so remarkable that it was toured round the local towns by its captors until it fell to pieces.

Yours faithfully,
R. HANBURY TENISON,
Clytha Park,
Nr Abergavenny, Gwent.

From Mr N. G. Hanson

Sir, It's all very well for the intrepid fisherman to complain that he's still aching after the fight. How does he suppose the poor catfish feels?

Yours sincerely,
N. GORDON HANSON,
4 West Street, Abbotsbury, Dorset.
November 21.

Single currency regulations demand further scrutiny

From Mr Christopher Gill,
MP for Ludlow (Conservative)

Sir, One might be tempted to suppose that the single currency (report and leading article, "The watchdog podule", November 22) represents but the beginning of a process towards European integration rather than the end — to regard it as a foundation stone rather than a keystone.

The foundations of a federal Europe are the Treaty of Rome, the Single European Treaty and the Treaty on European Union (Maastricht). Built upon these are the twin pillars of the European federal arch. On the one side all the appurtenances of statehood: the European anthem, the Commission, the Court of Justice, the flag and the Parliament; on the other side the building blocks are the common policies for agriculture, fisheries and so on.

This explains the frantic efforts now being made in the chancelleries of Europe to effect the single currency, without which the federal edifice will not be complete.

Those who value the freedom and independence of our nation must ensure that the vaulting ambition of

the European integrationists is brought down to earth.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER GILL,
House of Commons.
November 22.

From Mr Martin Howe, QC

Sir, Your leader, "The watchdog podule", touches on my views about the European single currency "stability pact" regulations which would impose budget discipline on all participants.

If we exercise our right to remain outside the single currency the countries which intend to join the euro bloc fear they will be damaged by unfair competitive devaluation by Britain. Our export industries will be inside the single market but not subject to the disciplines of the single currency.

Those countries will have a strong

political and economic incentive to introduce Britain either to peg its exchange rate or to follow recessionary policies which would push up the pound against the euro. Therefore, caution

is the watchword for us to follow the policies laid down in the programme.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN HOWE,
8 New Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

November 22.

From Mr A. D. Gathing

Sir, I can only wish that everyone in the country could have read Sir Denman's letter of November 16.

Quoting one of the drafters of the Treaty of Rome, Sir Roy makes it crystal clear that the EU is not (as we have been told for 25 years) about trade, but about "fiscal, social, monetary and ultimately political union". In other words, it is about total control over us.

In an article in today's *Sunday Times*, Andrew Neil argues that how the European issue is resolved will determine the future shape of our nation. He could have said that it will determine whether our nation has a future.

Yours etc.
A. D. GATHING,
White Lodge, Berwick St James,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.
November 17.

From Mr Imre Lake

Sir, Perhaps the public would have a better perception of the principle at stake if the recent 48-hour ruling had decided a *minimum* 48-hour working week. The issue is not whether or not the law is a good law, but who should have the right to pass such laws to

govern work practices in the UK.

Imagine the fuss if, by majority voting, the North Europeans tried to pass a law abolishing the siesta.

Yours faithfully,
IMRE LAKE,
62 Regent's Park Road, NW1.
November 21.

From Mr P. E. Roe

Sir, Professor Sidney Pollard is surely wrong to assert (letter, November 14) that our present Government is the first to boast of low wages. The Labour Government of 1974-78 claimed that we had the lowest wages in Europe and that was a triumph of policies and ineq

uity.

</div

OBITUARIES

TERENCE DONOVAN

Terence Donovan, photographer, committed suicide on November 22 aged 60. He was born on September 14, 1936.

Terence Donovan was one of those East End likely lads who turned British photography upside down in the 1960s. Together with such friends and rivals as David Bailey, Brian Duffy and Terry O'Neill, he utterly transformed a discipline that until then had taken its tone from the civilised demureness and refined sensibilities of a Norman Parkinson or Cecil Beaton. Scruffy, cheeky and confidently working-class, the new generation became the instant iconographers of Swinging London; and soon they themselves were among its most celebrated icons.

Donovan and his colleagues took fashion photography by storm, but their own success was based on something more solid than fashion. They were industrious, reliable and keen to succeed, and Donovan in particular was an excellent technician, fascinated by equipment and the mechanics of his craft.

"Bailey and I have worked out that there are about 450 things that can go wrong," he once observed, "But we must be doing something right, since there are about 25 million cameras in this country and only 50 or 60 of us who can use them."

His down-to-earth approach gave Donovan a versatility that many of his less durable Sixties subjects proved unable to match. He soon branched out into film work, building a successful career as a director of commercials and later of pop videos and even party political broadcasts; and he remained active as a portrait photographer — sought after by everyone from royalty to rock stars — right up to the time of his death.

The son of a lorry driver, Terence Daniel Donovan grew up in Stepney in the East End of London. He left Fairfield Road School in his early teens to pursue a course at the London School of Engraving and Lithography and at 15 began work in the photographic department of a Fleet Street printers.

His laid the foundations for his darkroom expertise, but he liked to claim that it was only later, while on National Ser-

vice, that he gained his first experience with a camera, when he was able to augment his army pay with the production and sale of cheerful postcards with such titles as *Catterick by Moonlight*.

By the time he was 21 he was working as an assistant to the leading fashion photographer John French; four years later he had set up a studio of his own. When it came to photographing women — from models such as Jean Shrimpton to stars such as Julie Christie — Donovan thought he knew exactly what gave him and his friends the edge over some of their predecessors: robustly heterosexual to a man, they viewed their models like "tasty birds" they might want to go out with; and go out with them they often did. "For the first time ever, we photographed those high-fashion pictures in a sexy way."

In later years, Donovan's assignments and commissions would include the engagement photographs of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson, as well as official studies of Margaret Thatcher and the Princess of Wales; and his second wife was a former debutante. But he was always careful to preserve his links to the "reasonably rugged background" that had given his career a valuable early boost.

At the height of his Sixties fame, when he was living in a Mayfair flat next door to Clarendon, he made much of his Sunday trips to visit Aunt Doll (a charlady) and Uncle Bill up the Mile End Road; and to the end his speech remained a feast of cockney rhyming slang, with surreal flights of verbal fancy and a few outrageous obscenities thrown in. Men were forever "geezers" and "blokes", and women were always "birds".

Uninterested in clothes, which he acquired in identical sets or holidays (which he refused to take), he spent his money on gadgets and new equipment. He once got rid of his possessions and lived for a while in his Rolls-Royce.

He would carry thousands of pounds in cash; when filming, perhaps as much as £30,000 or its equivalent in local currency. This he would sometimes produce from his trouser-pocket, and wave about to make things happen faster. He paid his film crews in cash on the day, and would endear himself to them still



further by wandering among them at times of stress, placing £20 or £50 notes in their pockets.

Donovan's other great interest in life was judo, about which he wrote a book. A black belt himself, he gave active financial support to the sport in Britain over a number of years. He was attracted to it not so much as a means of self-defence — he was 6ft 2in tall and weighed 16 stone and more — as by the philosophy behind it. "In my last life," he once joked, "I must have been a Jewish samurai."

A Japanese influence was

evident in the abstract paintings he exhibited at the Albermarle Gallery in 1990, and in the feature film, *Yellow Dog*, which he made in 1972. The latter, he confessed, "was only successful in that I pushed on when most people would have stopped." A bewilderingly upbeat homage to the great Japanese director Kurosawa, "it became something of a cult in universities".

Donovan's persistence was undoubtedly one of the reasons he succeeded. But so, too, was the fact that he and his Sixties colleagues had had nothing much to lose. The

worst that could have happened to them all, he explained, is that they would have had to go back to the East End, where they had been happy enough in the first place. "If you are in combat and you don't mind defeat, that makes you dangerous."

Terence Donovan's first marriage to Janet Cohen in 1961, was dissolved. He is survived by a son from that marriage, now a successful rock musician; and by his second wife, Diana St Felix Dare, whom he married in 1970, and a son and daughter from his second marriage.

STANLEY ROBINSON

Stanley Robinson, OBE, former head of The Times Parliamentary Staff, died on November 21 aged 93. He was born on October 27, 1903.



The long service of Stanley Robinson to The Times, first as a verbatim gallery reporter and later as chief of a team of twelve, was matched only by his voluntary work to improve the facilities and conditions for all who worked in the Parliamentary Press Gallery. After joining the staff from the Press Association in 1935 he was successively honorary treasurer, 1937-39, honorary secretary, 1939-42, and chairman, 1942-43. He was thus in office when German bombs destroyed the House of Commons and when most of the reporters' writing rooms at the back of the gallery were damaged.

He and George Christ of The Daily Telegraph were the principal mediators between the Commons' Rebuilding Select Committee and the newspaper and broadcasting reporters who demanded an expansion of gallery facilities. The select committee decided, on the evidence, that the gallery should be twice its former size, which meant that the old and cramped "Ladies Gallery", once dominated by ministers' wives, was eliminated. *Hansard* reporters also

had more space. In July 1943, Robinson was presented with an inscribed cigar box made from wood taken from the timbers of the bombed House in recognition of his efforts to extend reporters' facilities in the redesigned premises.

When he retired in October 1968 he was the doyen of the gallery journalists, a veteran link with the Victorian gallery when lobby journalists wore top hats and frock coats, and copy was handwritten on "limsies". He was appointed OBE in 1969.

Stanley Robinson was born in Scarborough. The son of a blacksmith, he was educated at Scarborough High School. As a boy, he helped in the blacksmith's retail shop, "learning the nuts and bolts".

A stickler for accuracy, Robinson claimed that The Times parliamentary report had maintained standards not matched by other newspapers.

as he put it. After working for a short period for an auctioneer he got a reporting job on the Scarborough Daily Post, later amalgamated with the Scarborough Evening News. Later he worked for the Liverpool Courier as reporter and sub-editor.

Coming to London in February 1925, he was a parliamentary reporter for Central News for four years and then with the Press Association for six years. His skill as a sub-editor and headline writer was much admired by Sir William Haley, Editor of The Times from 1952 to 1966, who would often "lift" a heading from the parliamentary page for the lead story on the bill (main news page).

His tough subbing style

derived from the days of newsprint rationing. Waffle was ruthlessly chopped. "The next reporter who uses the phrase 'as far as ... is concerned' will get the sack," ran one warning on the notice board. He also had his light-headed moments suddenly he would enliven a dull all-night sitting with a rendering of "Jesus wants me as a sunbeam". And some weekends he led a group of gallery men on tours of the Surrey hills.

A stickler for accuracy, Robinson claimed that The Times parliamentary report had maintained standards not matched by other newspapers.

Rackheath and Salhouse and Diocesan Chaplain to the Deaf (Norwich).

The Rev Graham Friend, Rector, Mears Ashby and Hardwick (Lichfield); to be Priest-in-charge, St Hilda, Bilsborrow (Blackburn).

The Rev Elizabeth Cummings, Chaplain, HM Prison, Stockton (Peterborough); to be Chaplain, HM Prison, Frankland (Durham).

The Rev Peter Gauden, Rector, Thirsk w/Forchard and Westerdale w/Heslerton; to be an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

The Rev George Harris, Priest-in-charge, Lyons, Easington Lane (Durham); to be Rector of the Warden for Pastoral Workers (Durham).

The Rev Dr Richard Hines, Vice-Principal of the North Thames Ministerial Training Course and Leader at Oak Hill Theological College (London); to be Vicar, Happisburgh, Walcott, Hemstead w/ Eccles and Lessingham, and Sea Palling w/ Wactham (Norfolk).

The Rev Simon Holland, Priest-in-charge, St. Kentigern, Glasgow (Glasgow and Galloway); to be Rector, Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastgate (Chichester).

The Rev Gordon Howells, Rector, Clymbridge and Yapton w/ Rother (Chichester); to be Priest-in-charge,

Church news

The Rev Alan Crossley, Chaplain, Princess Royal Hospital, Telford (Lichfield); to be Priest-in-charge, St Hilda, Bilsborrow (Blackburn).

The Rev Elizabeth Cummings, Chaplain, HM Prison, Stockton (Peterborough); to be Priest-in-charge, Newbold w/ Barlow (Derby).

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and Canon Maurice Green, Vicar, Christ Church, Barnes to be Priest-in-charge, St Simon Zebedee, Chelsea, and St Saviour, Wallon Street (London).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Charles Goring, Assistant Curate, Thirsk (Yorkshire); to be Priest-in-charge, St. Peter's Cathedral, Koforidua-Ho (Ghana).

The Rev Richard Frank, Team Rector, Greystoke Team Ministry, Convenor of Non-Superior Ministers and Priest-in-charge, Patterdale (Cumbria); to be also Rural Dean of Penrith, same diocese.

The Rev Jonathan Birbeck, Assistant Curate, St. Francis, Dudley (Worcester); to be Assistant Curate, St. Mary, Bromsgrove and St. Anne, Bromsgrove (Worcester).

The Rev Judith French, Curate, St. Mark, Bilston (Wolverhampton); to be Priest-in-charge,

INFALLIBLE COMEDY

Barefoot in the Park, by Neil Simon

Cast: Ian McEwan, John Branden, John Cullum, John Lithgow, Mervyn Peake, Kurt Kasznar

Directed by RICHARD BENJAMIN

Prebendary Michael McGowan, Vicar, Christ Church, Barnes to be Priest-in-charge, St Simon Zebedee, Chelsea, and St Saviour, Wallon Street (London).

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SORLEY MACLEAN

Sorley MacLean
(Somhairle MacGill-Eain), poet, died yesterday aged 85. He was born on October 26, 1911.

SORLEY MACLEAN was regarded as the greatest Gaelic poet of the century. He gave new literary standing to a language which seemed close to extinction. His work was musical, resonant of a rich oral tradition; it mourned the Highland Clearances but also confronted the great issues of the 20th century.

MacLean was born on the small island of Raasay, over the sound from Skye. Three influences shaped his art and animated him until his death. The first was musical: he grew up in a world of Gaelic song and poetry; his father was a fine singer and an accomplished piper.

The second was historical. He heard the old Gaelic songs at his grandmother's knee and acquired a powerful "folk" memory. He told the stories of both Culloden and the Battles of the Braes of 1882 (when Skye crofters resisted eviction) as if he himself had been present.

The third influence was religious: he was brought up in the Free Presbyterian Church, which broke away from the Free Church in 1893 in protest against liberalised doctrine. Raasay was one of the secession's centres but MacLean was always at pains to kill the myth of a closed and narrow Calvinist society: he drew a distinction between the communicants, a small minority, and the "adherents", who observed the sabbath dutifully enough but retained all the convivial habits of their ancestors.

He was educated at Portree High School and Edinburgh University, where he graduated in 1933 with an honours degree in English. He embraced socialism and denounced fascism; he would have fought in the Spanish Civil War had not his salary as a teacher been the chief support of the extended family dependent on his help to complete their education.

This always preyed a little on his mind. In later life he was at pains to correct an impression, given by one of his poems, that the love of a woman had kept him at home. The reasons were, he said, entirely economic; but he still had to suffer some snide barbs from the close-knit world of academic Celtic studies. When

Edinburgh City Corporation agreed to make up the salaries to teachers who went off to the war — he was by now head of English at Broughmuir — he joined up and fought with the 8th Army in North Africa, where he was wounded at El Alamein.

He began to write poetry while at university, choosing to do so in Gaelic not only because he felt comfortable with its literary tradition but also as part of a specific effort to halt its decline. His first published work, produced with Roger Garioch, was *Seventeen Poems for St. Patrick*. In 1943 came *Dain do Eimhir*.

The poems crystallise and celebrate the historical experience of the Scottish Gael. Many are laments for Highlanders brutally evicted in the Clearances. Others are love poems, or lyrical evocations of nature. The link between land and people is a drumbeat through the verses:

Great Raasay of the MacLeods...

Some critics felt that something was lost when the work was translated into English, a view MacLean shared, though he published his own translations. Yet he was also influenced by the metaphysical poets, whom he had studied at Edinburgh, and he reinvigorated the Gaelic literary tradition by enlarging it into a medium which could confront contemporary themes.

The Spanish Civil War continued as a painful memory, and his lament for three poets who lost their lives in the International Brigade — John Cornford, Julian Bell and Garcia Lorca — is one of his most moving works:

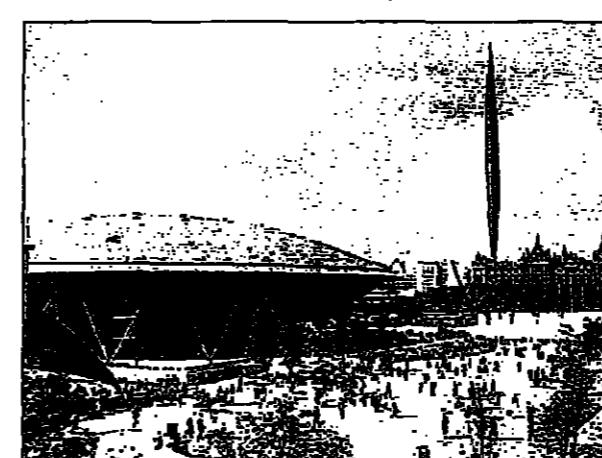
What to us is the empire of Germany or the empire of Britain, or the empire of France, and every one of them loathsome?

Bruth the brief is ours in the sore frailty of mankind...

Sorley MacLean was a man of great kindness, keeping up the traditions of Highland hospitality in Skye. His moustache and tweeds gave him an Orwellian air and he told his stories in slow, lilting cadence. He pouréd the island with liberality and liked nothing better than to show visitors the magical beauties of the islands and recount their intimate history.

He is survived by his wife, Renee and two daughters.

RALPH TUBBS



Tubbs's Dome of Discovery on the South Bank, 1951

AN architect Ralph Tubbs was most widely known as the designer of the Dome of Discovery, the vast circular building housing the scientific exhibits at the South Bank exhibition of the 1951 Festival of Britain. Until its demolition, after the exhibition closed, it was the largest dome in the world, with a diameter of 365 ft. Tubbs was also one of the trio of architects jointly responsible for planning the exhibition and for its overall design, along with Hugh Casson and Misha Black.

He was the son of W.H. Tubbs, and was educated at Mill Hill School and at the Architectural Association School in Bedford Square. On qualifying from there in 1936 he became a dedicated follower of the Modern movement in architecture, then newly established in England, but his work was never aggressive or extreme, as two buildings he designed in London in the 1950s show. He was also an officer of the

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY NOVEMBER 25 1996

NEWS

Clarke to confront Euro-sceptics

■ Kenneth Clarke will confront his party's Euro-sceptics today in a gamble designed to quell renewed Tory turmoil over the single currency and turn attention back to tomorrow's Budget.

After more ministerial disarray over the Government's plans to handle its latest Euro-crisis, the Treasury announced the Chancellor's appearance to defuse the row. It will take place 24 hours before he faces the Commons to play one of the Government's last election cards.

Page 1

Survivors describe Comoros air crash

■ Two British survivors described their escape from the sunken wreckage of a hijacked plane that ran out of fuel and crashed in the Indian Ocean. Up to 120 passengers died when Ethiopian Airlines 767 was torn into three pieces 500 yards off the Comoros Islands.

Pages 1, 3

SAS men suspended

Five members of the Territorial Army's SAS regiment have been suspended after taking part in a TV documentary series about the unit. The men, from 21 SAS, appeared in baldacchins in *SAS – The Soldiers' Story*.

Page 1

Reform call

Britain will today call on the European Court of Human Rights to reform itself after a string of rulings against the Government.

Page 10

Threat to oaks

Eurotunnel said disruption to passenger services would continue for up to six months as the last wreckage was removed from the Channel Tunnel.

Page 2

Tunnel cleared

Eurotunnel said disruption to passenger services would continue for up to six months as the last wreckage was removed from the Channel Tunnel.

Page 12

Kidnap rescue

Police used stun grenades to free a disabled man from kidnappers holding him to ransom in a luxury hotel.

Page 5

Rubens doubt

Fresh evidence casting doubt on the authenticity of one of the National Gallery's most prized exhibits, *Samson and Delilah* by Rubens, has been unearthed in Belgian archives.

Page 7

Radiation guinea pig

A former radar operator described how he had been one of the guinea pigs in secret radiation experiments on 200 military and civilian personnel.

Page 8

Trouble at abbey

Monks have been called in to try to solve a clash of authority between the clergy and lay administrators of Selby Abbey, where three vicars have resigned in five years.

Page 9

Peace drive

A French government mediator was appointed to try to end the week-old protest by lorry drivers that has caused chaos across the country.

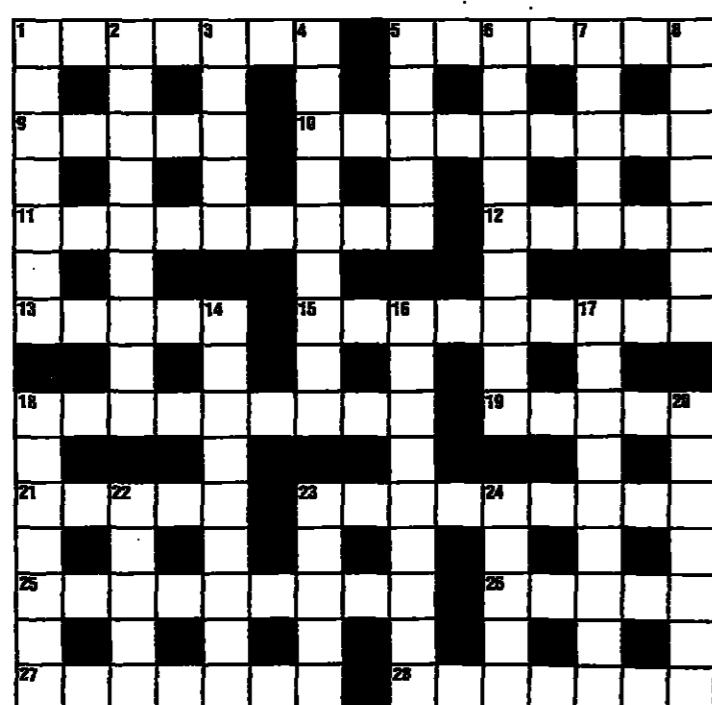
Page 17

Cardinal condemns 'satanic' music

■ One of the most powerful figures in the Roman Catholic world branded rock music an "instrument of the Devil" and urged young people not to listen for fear of endangering their souls. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Holy Office – the successor to the Inquisition – said much "heavy metal" music had "diabolical and satanic messages".

Page 1

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,334



ACROSS

- Understatement unusual in T. S. Eliot (7).
- Sailors trick old copper and escape (7).
- Sugar-producer's a soft-hearted man (5).
- Lionesses moving around without a sound (9).
- She's a fair target for shy people (4,5).
- The underworld business of musical entertainment (5).
- Confound the pitch! (5).
- Conflict, bombastically pronounced justified (9).
- Study with a Parisian one way to beat a problem (9).
- Dance with beat and energy (5).
- Wards of belief current in Asia (5).
- Crowd not in favour of hunting (9).
- Account given in New Testament (9).

DOWN

- Youngster joining a highly principled person in strike (7).
- Present with race game (3,3).
- Such long hair some actresses have (5).
- See star pick plant (9).
- A woman accepting it shows goodwill (5).
- Firm making place secure (9).
- Starts to write in very large letters (5).
- Slough appears to be hopeless (7).
- Suffering blows in turns, broke down in tears (9).
- Contemplates what's odd in a set-up (9).
- This town has not put up overpass (9).
- Blush about skirts being worn (7).
- Ham on the turn (7).
- Exhaust pipe (5).
- Nasty creature fellow caught turned over (5).
- Nothing that is side-splitting occurs in this college (5).

ABERLOUR

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,333 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single Highland malt whisky.

Times Two Crossword, page 56

WEATHER INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions 0336 441 910

UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410

Inside M25 0336 401 746

M25 and Link Roads 0336 401 747

National Railways 0336 401 510

Channel crossing 0336 401 388

Motorway to Headrow & Gwawkin airports 0336 407 505

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Midlands 0336 401 526

East Anglia 0336 401 527

Scotland 0336 401 528

N. Ire 0336 401 529

MetFax Marine 0336 401 595

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Scotland 0336 401 528

N. Ire 0336 401 529

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